

December 2, 1996

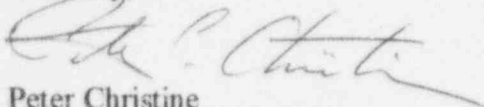
Commissioner Shirley A. Jackson
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

RE: Maine Yankee

Dear Commissioner:

I draw your attention to the highlighted article in this item recently sent to all area residents. This type of clouding of the facts is a disservice to Maine citizens. The ISAT report mentioned "eroded margins" above 2440 MWth. The ISAT neglected to address the fact that Maine Yankee has been operating for 17 1/2 years with "eroded margins", therefore, unsafely.

Sincerely,



Peter Christine
P.O. Box 12
Alna, ME 04535

Maine Yankee Community News

Published by Maine Yankee Public Affairs Dept.

17,000 hour review affirms safe operation

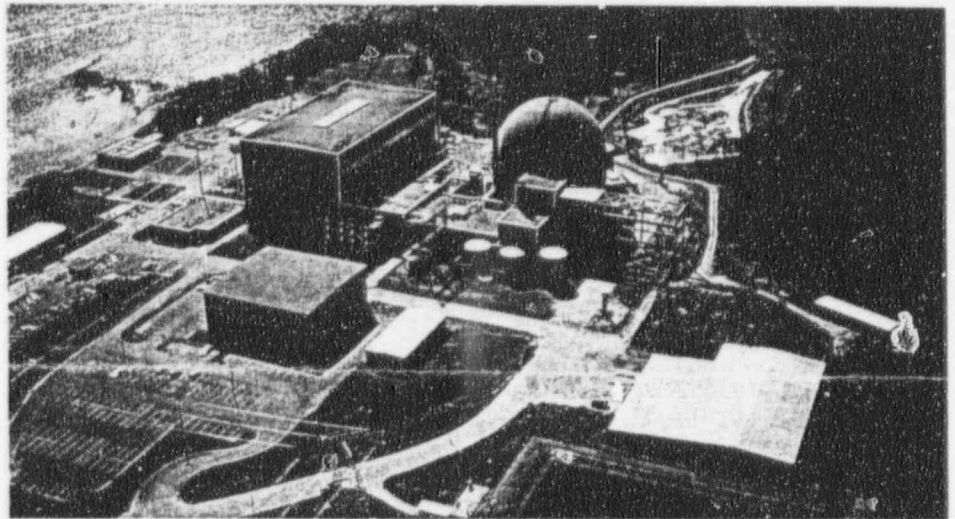
by Charles Frizzle,
Maine Yankee President and CEO

A 25 member Independent Safety Assessment (ISA) team affirmed Maine Yankee's safe operation at 90 percent power after investing 17,000 hours thoroughly examining Maine Yankee's operation. The review included 4,500 hours of on-site plant inspection. Contrary to some accounts, the report did not find Maine Yankee unsafe at full power but indicated that 100 percent power could not be supported without further documentation. We found their report balanced and fair. From the outset Maine Yankee viewed the ISA as an opportunity for learning and improvement.

"We are committed to devoting whatever resources are necessary to continue operating the plant safely or we will not operate it at all."

This U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) inspection was the most thorough in Maine Yankee's history. It was also unique as it was the first such inspection that included participation by a state. Governor King called for a top to bottom inspection of the plant last May, and the state of Maine became a key player in the ISA. The inspection came about following concerns about plant safety raised in a

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Ukrainian Physicians Tour Maine Yankee

Chpak Vladimir and Evgen Kurilov, physicians from the Ukrainian Ministry of Health, toured Maine Yankee in late October along with Dr. Kathleen Gensheimer, Maine State Epidemiologist. Drs. Vladimir and Kurilov are in the United States for a program at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia. They spent a week in Maine learning about Maine public health activities. Serge Milculim of Augusta served as translator for the physicians. Serge is also from Ukraine and has lived in the U.S. since defecting from a former Soviet fish processing vessel off Portland

UKRAINIAN, CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Excellence Action Plan

by Charles Frizzle

For Maine Yankee this is a time of intense internal and external examination. Though the Independent Safety Assessment found the plant to be operating safely, we recognize there are important areas where improvements and changes must be made if we are to continue providing Maine people with safe, clean, low-cost electricity for years to come.

We also know that comprehensive improvement will not happen overnight. In fact, we expect some rough sledding ahead as a number of items identified by the ISA and other inspections will result in enforcement action and possibly fines

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Edited by Maine Yankee Public Affairs
Produced by Maine Yankee Graphics



L-R: SERGE MILCULIM, DR. KATHLEEN GENSHEIMER, PATRICK DOSTIE, DR. EVGEN KURLIOV, PATRICK COUGHLIN, DR. CHPAK VLADIMIR, ERIC HOWES.

several years ago.

Drs. Vladimir and Kurilov were interested in the significant differences, especially in safety systems, between a U.S. plant like Maine Yankee and the Chernobyl nuclear unit that was destroyed in the 1986 accident. Thirty-seven percent of Ukraine's electricity comes from that country's 15 nuclear power plants. Since the Chernobyl accident, plants in Ukraine and other areas of the former Soviet Union have incorporated many safety features required for plants in the U.S. and other Western countries.

Teamwork Builds Success in Operations

The Independent Safety Assessment singled out the Operations Department as one of Maine Yankee's strengths. Operations monitors plant performance around the clock. That large responsibility is in the hands of Nuclear Power Operators, Control Room Operators, Senior Reactor Operators, Shift Technical Advisors, Shift Operating Supervisors, and Plant Shift Superintendents.



LARRY JEWETT DURING SIMULATOR TRAINING

Larry Jewett is one of the Plant Shift Superintendents who oversees plant operations including control room activities. Jewett came to Maine Yankee in 1980 after graduating from the University of Maine with an engineering degree. But his association with Maine Yankee goes back to when Larry was a boy scout camping at Eaton Farm and seeing the plant under construction.

Jewett started as a Nuclear Power Operator. After years of study and successfully completing rigorous Nuclear Regulatory Commission exams, Jewett became a licensed Control Room Operator and eventually a licensed Senior Reactor Operator. Later, Jewett became a Shift Operating Supervisor before promotion to his current position as a Plant Shift Superintendent.

Communication and coordination of activities are essential to Operations' six eight person crews. "It makes sense to have crews—we learn to function together as a team," said Jewett. Crews spend a lot of time together even outside work. "Sometimes it seems like I spend more time with these guys than my wife and family," said Jewett.

TEAMWORK, CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

EXCELLENCE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

by our regulator. That said, we certainly regard any violations as a serious matter and are doing everything we can to fully comply with regulatory requirements now and in the future.

To bring about long-term improvement in all areas, Maine Yankee has developed a comprehensive Commitment to Excellence Action Plan. While we will be presenting to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) a formal detailed response to the ISA in early December, the Excellence Action Plan is already being implemented.

Key Points: Maine Yankee Commitment to Excellence Action Plan

- Maine Yankee will devote whatever resources are necessary to

continue operating the plant safely or we will not operate it at all.

- A national search is underway for a vice president of licensing and regulatory compliance. Responsibilities include regulatory compliance, licensing issues, evolving standards in the industry, and supporting a culture of excellence at Maine Yankee.
- The licensing and engineering departments at Maine Yankee will be separated to enhance focus in each area.
- A respected former senior NRC official has joined the Maine Yankee Board of Directors.

- The nuclear oversight committee of the board is being enhanced to include nationally respected technical advisors.

- Maine Yankee is cooperating with federal and state officials to address issues in the ISA report and to chart an appropriate path for return to full power.



SCOTT McALLISTER INSTRUCTS LOUIS LOON ON THE USE OF THE NEW LEARNING BANK, A TOOL THAT WILL GREATLY ENHANCE MAINE YANKEE'S ABILITY TO TRACK AND PRIORITIZE ACTION ITEMS.

TEAMWORK, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Jewett is also involved in the community, serving as an Assistant Den Leader to the Wiscasset Webelos and as President and co-founder of the Wiscasset Sno-Goers snowmobile club. When asked what he enjoys most about his job, Jewett responded simply, "No two days are ever the same."

SAFE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



AL ANDREWS & ROBERT GARCEAU SET UP FOR WELDING

December 1995 anonymous letter.

The report identified strengths in the areas of operations, maintenance and engineering. It also found weaknesses. These were captured under two broad categories: 1) economic pressures to contain costs; and 2) lack of a questioning attitude and areas of complacency.

Like any company Maine Yankee prioritizes the work to be done. The report found that Maine Yankee has postponed some projects and program improvements, but not at the expense of plant safety. Safety is always paramount during plant operation and during budget decisions. Also, postponed activities were not viewed at the time to have safety significance. In light of what we have learned from the ISA, we are reconsidering how we make those decisions.

Maine Yankee's 470 employees are among the best educated, and motivated in the state. Safety significant issues are promptly addressed. The fact that some projects have not been completed may point to isolated instances of complacency, but in most cases we made the decision to defer projects viewed as less pressing.

New Faces in the Community



Maureen Brown, Public Affairs Director

When the media needs up to the minute information about Maine Yankee, Maureen has all the facts and figures. She joined Maine Yankee as Public Affairs Director in August with an impressive background, including experience as Communications Director for the Ohio Secretary of State, editor, and reporter for various newspapers including the Brunswick Times-Record. Maureen replaces Marshall Murphy who took a new position with Champion International in Alabama.

Maureen graduated with a degree in journalism from the University of Missouri-Columbia but her recent education has been on the job learning about Maine Yankee and fielding questions from the media at the same time. When she is not at work, Maureen lives in Brunswick with her son, John.

For those circumstances where we did not exhibit an adequate questioning attitude, we, the managers at Maine Yankee must accept the blame. It is our job to ensure that potentially significant and credible "what ifs" are addressed in every circumstance.

The ISA taught us a great deal about ways we can work smarter. It also helped us better understand the expectations of our regulator. We are adjusting our operation to meet the challenges of an evolving regulatory environment. We are also committed to devoting whatever resources are necessary to continue operating the plant safely or we will not operate it at all.



Patrick Coughlin, Program Coordinator

Patrick is fast becoming a key Maine Yankee connection to the local community, schools and businesses. If you want to schedule a group visit, a Maine Yankee speaker or other special event, give him a call at the Energy Information Center (800-458-0066).

Before Patrick joined Maine Yankee as Program Coordinator in September, he managed an environmental lab in Arizona and taught chemistry and science classes at Waynflete School in Portland. Currently he and his wife, Jennifer, live in Brunswick where they met as students at Bowdoin College. You may catch him at local events or pounding nails for the Bath-Brunswick Habitat for Humanity Chapter.



HERMAN LOVEJOY CUTTING NEW GASKET

The Power of Partnership:

Maine Yankee Helps Bring CMTC to Lincoln County

Central Maine Technical College (CMTC) and Maine Yankee have teamed up to bring college education to the communities in Lincoln County. With CMTC's academic experience and Maine Yankee's financial support, the program is up and running with its first class in real estate sales being offered in Boothbay Harbor. Students can earn CMTC credits through this program without traveling to CMTC's Auburn campus.

"Education is very important to us," explained Charles Frizzle, President and CEO of Maine Yankee. "We think this region deserves attention from Maine's public higher education system; but we also realize that with the state facing a budget shortfall, CMTC needed financial help to initiate a presence



DON OSIER, CMTC PROGRAM COORDINATOR

"My father left Lincoln County to find more opportunity; I'm delighted that my new role involves creating opportunity right here"

here. As Lincoln County's largest employer, we think our contribution is a terrific investment in this community; we are proud to be a partner in this exciting new venture."

"What do you want to learn?" asks Don Osier, CMTC Program Coordinator. Don is developing course offerings for next semester and is looking for commu-

nity input. Do you have automotive engine repair experience and wish to learn about marine diesels? Or maybe you would like some training in small business management? These and other courses may be offered in Damariscotta and other Lincoln County locations as Don puts together a program that meets identified needs for skills development and employment potential.

If you have course ideas or questions, you can reach Don at his office in Boothbay at 633-0675 (fax 633-5458). Don, who now lives in New Harbor, has a personal interest in making the program a success. "My father left Lincoln County to find more opportunity; I'm delighted that my new role involves creating opportunity right here."

Notable Mention...

As of November, our 470 professionals have worked more than 1,000,000 safe hours without a lost time injury, while fulfilling Maine Yankee's mission of providing clean, plentiful, low-cost electricity.

Maine Yankee
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