

December 28, 1996

Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson, Chairwoman  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

**RE: GOVERNOR ANGUS KING/MAINE YANKEE**

Dear Dr. Jackson:

Governor Angus King has misled the media and the public by repeatedly making false statements as to the recent Independent Safety Assessment (ISA) of Maine Yankee. Announcing the inspection, Governor King described it, and the media reported it, as a "nuts and bolts review from top to bottom" which would thoroughly review every system at the plant to "cover all the bases." This falsely reassured Maine residents and has led to alarm at the growing list of new problems being identified at the plant.

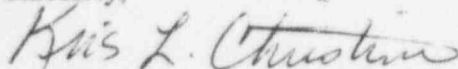
David Lochbaum of the Union of Concerned Scientists was the first to publicly dispel this myth by pointing out that the ISA only reviewed 4 of 40 systems at Maine Yankee -- with 3,200 deficiencies noted. Immediately following a briefing by ISA team leaders Edward Jordan and Ellis Merschoff, Governor King went on television declaring the plant was safe and that it had just undergone the most comprehensive inspection ever performed on any nuclear power plant in the world. Those of us following the issue knew this inspection didn't even come close to the U.S. inspection of Millstone, which covered 39 systems.

The question arose, why is the Governor making these false statements? Is he misinformed by his staff or the NRC? Recently it came to my attention that the NRC fully briefed Governor King on the ISA inspection from the start -- informing him it would target 4 key systems. At no time was he told this review would cover all 40 systems or that it would be the most comprehensive inspection ever done on any nuclear power plant in the world.

Is it correct that the NRC fully informed Governor King that the ISA would cover only 4 key systems -- not all -- at Maine Yankee and at no time led him to believe this to be the most comprehensive review conducted on any nuclear power plant in the world?

Thank you for your time, Dr. Jackson.

Sincerely,



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