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NRC STAFF APPROVES DECOMMISSIONING PLAN  
FOR YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER STATION

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has issued an order approving Yankee Atomic Electric Company's decommissioning plan for its nuclear power station near Rowe, Massachusetts.

The Yankee Rowe facility was voluntarily shut down by the licensee in October 1991. Yankee Atomic decided to permanently cease operation of the station in February 1992. The licensee attributed the decision to the economic outlook for the facility and the uncertainty of resolving issues raised by the NRC staff regarding reactor vessel integrity.

All fuel has been removed from the reactor and stored in a spent fuel storage pool on site. The licensee removed and shipped four steam generators, the pressurizer and other low-level contaminated waste to the Barnwell waste facility in South Carolina before it was closed to outside waste last June. These activities were permitted under terms of the license and applicable NRC regulations.

The decommissioning plan, which was submitted in December 1993, involves safe storage (SAFSTOR) until a low-level waste disposal facility might be available in 2000, when dismantlement (DECON) would begin. The spent fuel would be maintained in wet storage for an indeterminate period.

In reviewing the decommissioning plan, the NRC staff concluded that no significant environmental, health or safety impacts are associated with SAFSTOR of Yankee Rowe.

Further details on the decommissioning plan and the staff's action are available for public inspection at the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20555, and at the Local Public Document Room for Yankee at the Greenfield Community College, 1 College Drive, Greenfield, Massachusetts.

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