

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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NRC PREHEARING CONFERENCE SCHEDULED
FOR YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER STATION

An Atomic Safety and Licensing Board has scheduled a prehearing conference February 1 in Rockville, Maryland, in a licensing proceeding concerning the decommissioning of Yankee Atomic Electric Company's nuclear power station near Rowe, Massachusetts.

The conference, which is open to the public, will begin at 9:30 a.m. in Room 3B45, Third Floor, in the NRC's Two White Flint North Building at 11545 Rockville Pike. To the extent necessary, the conference will continue the next day at the same location.

Licensing boards frequently schedule prehearing conferences of the parties in a proceeding to consider whether a public hearing should be granted. At the forthcoming conference, the board will consider the standing of certain petitioners to intervene and the admissibility of their contentions in the case.

In light of a recent Federal Appeals Court decision, the Commission last year reinstated a pre-1993 policy of providing an opportunity for a hearing on the possible approval of a nuclear power reactor decommissioning plan. In keeping with that policy, the Commission offered an opportunity for a hearing on the unfinished portion of work to be completed under the Yankee decommissioning plan. It had been approved by the staff in February 1995, three years after the Yankee facility permanently ceased operation.

Citizens Awareness Network and New England Coalition on Nuclear Pollution petitioned to intervene and requested a hearing. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts also filed a notice that it will participate in the proceeding.

Members of the Licensing Board are the following Administrative Judges from the NRC's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel: G. Paul Bollwerk, III, chairman; Dr. Jerry R. Kline and Dr. Thomas S. Elleman.

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