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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NRC POSTPONES PREHEARING CONFERENCE ON YANKEE ROWE

At the request of the Citizen's Awareness Network, an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board has rescheduled a prehearing conference for January 26, 1999, in a licensing proceeding concerning the decommissioning of the Yankee Atomic Electric Company's nuclear reactor at Rowe, Mass. The conference had been set for tomorrow, December 16. The facility permanently ceased operation in 1991.

The conference, which is open to the public, will begin at 9:30, at the Grand Jury Room (top floor) of the Franklin County Courthouse. 425 Main Street, in Greenfield, Mass. If necessary, the proceeding will continue on Wednesday and Thursday, January 27-28, beginning at 9:00 a.m. each day.

Licensing boards frequently schedule a prehearing conference of the parties in a proceeding to consider whether a public hearing should be granted. At the forthcoming conference, the board will consider the admissibility of contentions raised by the New England Coalition on Nuclear Pollution, Inc. and the Citizens Awareness Network, which requested a hearing on the unfinished portion of work to be completed under the Yankee decommissioning plan. The conference will also consider petitions, if any, from interested states or governmental organizations and to the extent necessary, will consider discovery and future schedules for various aspects of the proceeding.

The board will hear oral statements at this prehearing conference. Any person not a party to the proceeding or a petitioner will be permitted to make such a statement, either orally or in writing, setting forth a position on the issues of concern. These statements do not constitute testimony or evidence but may be held by the Board in its deliberations on the extent of the issues to be considered. Oral limited appearance statements may be given from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 26 at the same location. The number of persons making statements and the time allotted for each statement may be limited depending on the number of persons present at the designated time. Normally, an oral statement may extend for up to five minutes.

Written statements may be submitted at any time. Written statements and requests for oral statements should be submitted to the Office of the Secretary, Rulemaking and Adjudications Staff, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington D.C. 20555.

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