

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Office of Public Affairs  
Washington, DC 20555  
Phone 301-415-8200 Fax 301-415-2234  
Internet: opa@nrc.gov  
Home Page: www.nrc.gov/OPA/

No. 96-94

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
(Friday, July 5, 1996)

NRC PREHEARING CONFERENCE SCHEDULED  
FOR YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER STATION

An NRC Atomic Safety and Licensing Board has scheduled a prehearing conference July 16 in Rockville, Maryland, in a licensing proceeding concerning the decommissioning of Yankee Atomic Electric Company's nuclear power station near Rowe, Massachusetts. The Yankee facility permanently ceased operation in October 1991.

The conference, which is open to the public, will begin at 9:30 a.m. in Room 3B45, Third Floor, of the NRC Two White Flint North Building at 11545 Rockville Pike.

Intervenors requesting a hearing on the unfinished portion of work to be completed under the Yankee decommissioning plan are Citizens Awareness Network and New England Coalition on Nuclear Pollution.

After a prehearing conference earlier this year, the Licensing Board on March 1 declined to admit any of the intervenors' contentions and denied their hearing request. On review of the intervenors' appeal, the Commission on June 18 remanded the proceeding to the Licensing Board to consider whether a new dose argument put forth by the intervenors satisfies late-filing standards and whether it provides a sufficient basis for challenging Yankee Atomic's choice of the DECON rather than the SAFSTOR decommissioning alternative.

Under DECON, equipment, structures and portions of the site are decontaminated to levels that permit unrestricted use of the property in a much shorter time period than under other alternatives. SAFSTOR is an alternative in which a facility is maintained in a condition that allows it to be safely stored and subsequently decontaminated that permit release for unrestricted use at a later date.

Intervenors contend that because occupational and public doses under the Yankee Atomic DECON alternative will be higher than under SAFSTOR, the decommissioning plan fails to achieve

doses that are as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA), thereby violating the Commission's ALARA standard.

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.

#