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# **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN DECOMMISSIONING *THE MAINE EXPERIENCE***

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# **Some Issues and Activities of Focused Public Interest**

- **Site Release Criteria**
- **License Termination Plan**
- **Partial Site Release**
- **Spent Fuel Storage**

# **SITE RELEASE CRITERIA**

- **In 2000, Maine enacted site release criteria: 10 mR overall and 4 mR for water, as distinguishable from background.**
- **Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company signed a side agreement with activists limiting the on site disposal of demolition debris to “non radioactive material” (de jure, Reg.guide 1.86).**

## **SITE RELEASE CRITERIA (continued)**

**Intact foundations permitted to remain (3 feet below grade at 10/4 for each survey sector).**

- **NRC has been negative/non-supportive regarding more restrictive state criteria. This is a mistake.**
- **Maine Yankee has decided to ship all demo debris off site (if practicable).**

# **License Termination Plan**

- **After giving assurances that obtaining a hearing was a simple matter, NRC staff vigorously opposed citizen intervention in the LTP, damaging agency credibility.**
- **Although Maine Yankee's LTP ASLB process (with state and activists intervening) is being held in abeyance under Board order pending extensive LTP revision and re-submittal, NRC**

## **License Termination Plan (continued)**

**staff is continuing RAI's and other processing of the original LTP. This NRC LTP review includes abandoned plans to "rubblize."**

- **Licensee has proactively engaged with stakeholders to resolve disputed LTP issues.**
- **Licensee "partnering" with stakeholders is apparent and laudable. NRC staff doesn't seem to, "get it," and will not share selected technical information.**

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# **Partial Site Release**

- **Maine Yankee has applied for release of a portion of the site slated for an environmental center.**
- **NRC has accepted and noticed the partial site release application notwithstanding that designation of that portion as a “non-affected” area is disputed in the LTP ASLB proceeding.**

# Spent Fuel Storage

- **NRC has neutered security requirements for spent fuel. No vehicular barriers, no armed guards required for an ISFSI.**
- **The NAC dual-purpose cask slated for use in Maine was rushed into license with RAI's outstanding.**
- **The licensee is breaking new ground in placing GTCC waste in casks under 10 CFR 50.59. Was 50.59 ever intended to be stretched for this type of activity?**



# Conclusions

- **NRC appears inordinately eager in fostering industry initiatives and regulatory space in decommissioning (e.g. rubbleization, neutering spent fuel security, rush to license casks, refusal to endorse state's more protective site release criteria, stiff-arming intervenors, dual tracking LTP and partial site release).**

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## **Conclusions (Continued)**

- **Although differences on a number of issues remain distinct, the licensee has assumed a relatively open, cooperative peer/partner relationship with decommissioning stakeholders that has yet to be emulated by NRC.**
- **In order to increase public confidence, NRC should better demonstrate that it works for the public by better working with the public.**