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Docket No. 50-309

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BSnyder

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YELLOW Ticket File-

ORB#3

→(NRR-4169)/

Ms. Eleanor S. Miller
Perkins Road
Boothbay Harbor, Maine 04538

Dear Ms. Miller:

This is in response to your letter of June 9, 1980 to President Carter. In your letter you expressed concern over the lack of an evacuation plan particularly because Boothbay Harbor is only about 2 1/2 miles from the Maine Yankee plant and that Boothbay has a large summer population. In addition, you expressed concern over a potential 75% increase in spent fuel storage at Maine Yankee.

For your information, I do share your concern with emergency preparedness at Boothbay Harbor. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are currently upgrading the required state of emergency preparedness at nuclear power plants, including the plan that has existed at Maine Yankee since initial licensing. FEMA is developing an independent estimate of the evacuation times for the Maine Yankee area, including Boothbay Harbor, and will review the upgraded State and local governmental emergency plans now under development and will report the results of its review to the NRC.

Maine Yankee has recently submitted an upgraded emergency preparedness plan for review which addresses the early warning system (alerting system). The NRC published on August 19, 1980, revised rules requiring that emergency plans meeting the new requirements be implemented by April 11, 1981, and that the early warning system be installed and demonstrated by July 1, 1981. The new rules include the requirement for installation of an early warning system with the capability to alert the public within about 10 miles of the site within about 15 minutes of notification of State and local officials. The new rules also require that upgraded emergency plans be developed by which the most effective protective actions (sheltering or evacuation) will be implemented. These plans are to take into consideration evacuation times under various conditions, such as weather conditions, seasonal population variations, the protection afforded by homes and the nature of the accident.

An accident involving the waste fuel storage (including additional storage of 75%) is considered a lesser event when considering offsite protection because much more time is available to take action and the release from the spent fuel would be much less than a release involving the core. Maine Yankee's request for a 75% increase in spent fuel pool capacity will be thoroughly reviewed to assure that there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by the proposed increase of the spent fuel pool capacity.

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- 2 -

I trust that my comments will give you added assurance that we are continuing in our efforts to assure public safety at the Maine Yankee Atomic Power plant.

Sincerely,

Original signed by
Darrell G. Eisenhut

Darrell G. Eisenhut, Director
Division of Licensing, NRR

*concurred in draft (attached)

see draft

OFFICE	ORB#3:DL	ORB#8:DL	ORB#3:DL	EP *	AD:OR:DL	AD:DL
SURNAME	PMKreutzer	BRadus JL	RAClark	BGrimes	TNovak	DEisenhut
DATE	8/26/80	8/26/80	8/27/80	8/22/80	8/17/80	8/20/80

POOR ORIGINAL

Eleanor S. Miller
Boothbay Harbor
Miami

Dear Mrs. Churchill

This letter is in response to your letter of July 9, 1980 to President Carter. In your letter you expressed concern over the lack of an evacuation plan particularly because Boothbay Harbor is only about 2 1/2 miles from the Maine Yankee plant and that Boothbay has a large summer population. In addition you expressed concern over a potential 75% increase in spent fuel storage at Maine Yankee.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are currently upgrading the required state of emergency preparedness at nuclear power plants, including the plant that has existed at Maine Yankee since initial licensing. FEMA is developing an independent estimate of the evacuation times for Maine Yankee area and will review the upgraded State and local governmental emergency plans and will report the results of its review to the NRC. The NRC will make a determination on the results of the FEMA review of the State and local plans.

Yankee has recently submitted an upgraded emergency preparedness plan for review. Their plan addresses the early warning system (alerting system), which you expressed concern about.

The NRC is publishing revised rules requiring that emergency plans meeting the new requirements be implemented by April 1, 1981 and that the early warning system be installed and demonstrated by July 1, 1981.

POOR ORIGINAL

The new rules include the requirement for installation of an early warning system ^{with the capability} designed to alert the public within about 10 miles of the site ^{within 30 minutes} of ~~detection~~ ^{notification of state and local officials} of an accident by the plant operator. The new rules ^{about 15} also require that ~~the~~ upgraded emergency plans be developed by which the most effective protective actions (sheltering or evacuation) will be implemented. These plans are to take into consideration ev. ation times under various conditions, such as weather conditions, seasonal population variations, ~~large summer populations, etc.~~, the protection afforded by homes and the nature of the accident. Judging from your letter, you seem to visualize ~~only plans for evacuation, whereas other alternatives such as protective sheltering may prove more viable.~~ ^{immediately} Please keep in perspective that the event of a most unlikely accident, e.g., ~~core melt with containment failure,~~ ^{core melt with containment failure,} would be cause for evacuation, ~~or protective sheltering.~~

^{accident involving the} An ~~event~~ ^{with} waste fuel storage (including additional storage of 75%) is considered a lesser event when considering offsite protection because much more time is available to take action and ^{the} release from the ~~depleted~~ ^{spent} fuel would be much less than ~~a release~~ ^{a release} involving the core. ~~The Maine Yankee fuel pool design is evaluated in Maine Yankee's Final Safety Analysis Report (FSAR) and considered, among other things, the safety of the public.~~ ^S Nevertheless, Maine Yankee's request for a 75% increase in spent fuel pool capacity will be thoroughly reviewed to assure that there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by the proposed increase of the spent fuel pool capacity.

I trust that my comments will give you added assurance that we are continuing in our efforts to assure public safety at the Maine Yankee Atomic Power plant.

Sincerely,

Darrell G. Eisenhut, Director
Division of Licensing

NRR

THE WHITE HOUSE

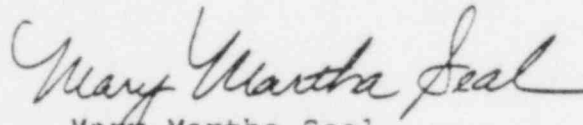
WASHINGTON

JUN 20 1980

MEMORANDUM

The attached letter(s) addressed to the President is referred to your office for suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling at the earliest opportunity. Should you receive mail that has been misdirected, please return to me with appropriate information. If you have any questions, my phone number is 456-2717.

Thank you.



Mary Martha Seal
Director
Correspondence Agency Liaison

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Essential

NRC

Boothbay Harbor, Maine.
June 9, 1980.

W/Encl. TO

President Jimmy Carter
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Maine Members of Congress
Governor Joseph Brennan

I am enclosing a chart showing our situation at the end of the 12 mile long peninsula between Boothbay Harbor and Wiscasset, lest you forget. We have no workable evacuation plan and I believe we never can, as you can see from the chart, in case of an accident, we must pass within 2½ miles of Maine Yankee Atomic Power plant. Neither have we an alerting system.

On page 132 of the Rogovin report, Volume 1, it says, "We think the emergency plan should not be just an abstract document. It should make realistic provisions for such seasonal or other variations as snowstorms, large summer populations, and so on."

Following is a list of figures from the Boothbay Harbor Region Chamber of Commerce:

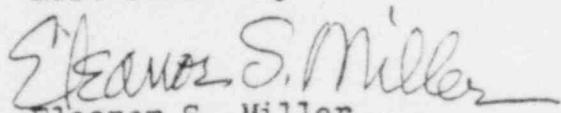
47,000 cottagers
6,000 year 'round residents (new census figures will be higher)
3,800 motel sleepers - plus cots
6 camp grounds
20 tour busses a day not unusual
thousands of day-trippers
a little under 100,000 people on the end of this peninsula on a busy summer day - with nearly a six month season.

We, the taxpayers, paid \$3.1 million for the Rogovin report, yet it seems, not much attention is being paid to the recommendations made by that committee.

Though you may think us expendable, you certainly must agree we are in a most vulnerable situation, and cannot accept Maine Yankee being granted a permit to store 75% more waste fuel on site, which, you can see, is a bottle neck on our escape route.

It is my understanding the N. R. C. and F. E. M. A. were created for the purpose of protecting the populace. Therefore, I consider it your moral responsibility to seriously weigh the hazards with which we, the people on the end of this peninsula, are threatened.

Most sincerely


Eleanor S. Miller
(Mrs. Reynolds Churchill)

POOR ORIGINAL

