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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

June 26, 1981

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Mr. Carlton C. Kammerer
Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1717 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Kammerer:

Enclosed please find clippings from the Maine Bangor Daily News and the Portland Press Herald. In both of these articles Maine's Attorney General James Tierney contends that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission may be deliberately delaying action on the state of Maine's request to intervene in the Maine Yankee spent fuel case. I would certainly appreciate receiving a clarification of this matter.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Olompia J Snowe Member of Congress 2nd District, Maine

OJS/mjn

cc: James Tierney, Attorney General

7/1...To EDO To Prepare Reply for Signature of: EDO...Suspense: July 16...Cpys to: RF, Docket, OCA to Acknowledge...81-0.882

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State accuses NRC of

AUGUSTA, Maine (AF) - Allorney General James Tierney said Tuesday that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission may be deliberately delaying action on Maine's request to intervence in the Maine Yanker spent fuel case.

THETTE' said he has "a strong suspicion" that the NRC is delaying a hearing on Maine's request for interrecor status in hopes that the rules will be changed and the statewill be herred from stepping in. That's branic. Therrey said because Maine Zantre W. licials aren't opposing the state's PAUCH!

Freskieni Reagan is pushing the NRC in speed up the interesting process for nuclear plants. Thermy said one way to du that is to limit opponents in NRC

proverdings.

Nisine Yankee has asked the NRC for permission to increase the amount of spent fuel stored at the Wiscossel plant by using a different stacking method II approved, hisine Yenkee would have room for another 20 years worth of

spent fuel, otherwise it contends it will run out of gace in a few years.

In January, Tierney filed for stervees status in the voccedings. The state contends that the populared ביש לבי מאנים מיש מיים בינים שניין כז cept in a pikel project and that Maine Yankee should not be allowed to use it. I

Tierney said the NKC INd him a prehearing conference would be held in bmarch or April and that a decision would then be made on whether Maine could interrece. But so lar, no hearing han been beid.

'Delays don't hunt us unless the delay is to get a rule in place" to keep the state out of the proceedings, said Assistant Attorney General Rufus Brown who is wirting on the case

Tierrary said the citori to streamine HRC proceedings is carning on many troots. There are bills in the House, bills to the Secule, the NRC is proposing rule changes..." in said.

Last month. Therney successfully mobilities allotneys generals actual the nation to copose a House subsommittee processal that would have limited the right's ad intervences

had he said a distinction outsi be made between states, which have a duty to project the health and safety of their . recidents, and special interest groups that hay be intervening in cases merely to try to close auclear plants.

"We're not trying to charge blaine Yankee." Tierney sold, the said the state would and object if the nuclear plant built another sent fuel pool to Lake care of its storage problem

Sensible Maine Forett, a Bookhbay Hartre anti-marker group, is already an intervenor in the case. David hiller, the Hisshington lawyer handling the case, said Tureday he didn't know if the NEC was deliberately delaying action on Mixing's request.

But he said the muclear industry is pulling on a "very well linanced, nuite sophisticated bobying ellori" is get Congress to streamilne NRC התושיות ביות

Congor Daily News Wednesday, June 17, 1961

delay on N-plant tuel case

The effort to destroy the ability of people to intervene in NRC proceedings is not dead, but, to the contrary, is in robust good health," be said

Brown sald he was told the delay was because Maine Yanker's lawyer and the MRC hearing examiner were fied up with other cases.

"That's a curious reason, because we were told we had to attend the prehearing conference), whether we were ready or not," Brown said.

N-plant foes to launch vote drive

AUGUSTA - The Maine Nuclear Referendum Committee on Saturday, June 25, will begin the second referendum to ban nuclear power in Maine. An all-day relly will be beid at Capital Park.

Entitled "A Day for a Nuclear-Free Maine," the event will mark the beginning of the petition drive to collect 37,000 signatures of Maine voters, the first step to getting Referencem II listed on the general election bailed in November, 1982.

Arthur Lerman, spokesman for the committee, said. The day will contain a great drai that is fun and lighthearted and extertaining. We want people to be able to come and enjoy themselves no matter what

their potat of view."

The rally will feature workshops on replacement power, renewabit energy, community organizing, and the Three Mile Island cleamup, Pinergy spokesmen will address the group and performers, including thick Curiess, Bill Chinook and Tony Montanaro, will enter-

"We are asking those who have already made their commitment to a nuclear-free Maine to make a special effort to attend," Lerman said. "This will be a time for people from all over the state to reaffirm their commitment, acquire a great deal of useful information and begin to participate in earnest in Referendum II.

Attorney General says

AUGUSTA (AP) — Attorney General
James Tierney said Tuesday that the
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be deilterately delaying action on
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delay is to get a rule in place" to keep the state out of the proceedings, said Assistant Attorney General Rulus Brown, who is working to the case.

Tierney said the effort to streamline NKC proceedings is coming on many fronts. "There are bills in the House, bills in the Senate, the NRC is proposing rule changes..." he said.

Last month, Therbey successfully mobilited attorneys general across the nation to oppose a House subcommittee proposal that would have limited the rights of intervences.

But he said a distinction must be made between states, which have a duty to protect the health and safety of their residents, and special interest groups that may be intervening in cases merely to try to circle nuclear plants.

"We're not trying to close Atsine Yankee," Therney said. He said the state would-and object if the nuclear plant built another spent fuel pool to take care of its storage problem.

Schaftle Manne Pource, a Receibbay Harbon anti-nuclear group, is already an interventor in the rase. David Miller, the Washington lawyer handling the case, said Tuesday he didn't know if the NRC was deliberately delaying action on Maine's request.

But he said the nuclear industry is putting on a "very well-fluanced, quite suphisticated lichbying effort" to get Congress to streamline NRC procedures.

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