

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
MAINE YANKEE ATOMIC POWER COMPANY
DOCKET NO. 50-309
NOTICE OF ISSUANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to facility Operating License No. DPR-36, issued to Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company for operation of the Maine Yankee Atomic Power Station, located in Lincoln County, Maine.

Identification of Proposed Action

The proposed amendment is in response to the licensee's application dated January 25, 1993, as supplemented in letters dated November 3, November 23, December 9, 1993, and January 5, 1994.

The proposed amendment would increase the maximum number of spent fuel assemblies stored in the Maine Yankee spent fuel pool (SFP) to 2019 from 1476. The proposed increase is required to provide spent fuel storage space through the duration of the current operating license, including the final full core offload. The NRC staff has prepared an Environmental Assessment of the proposed action.

Summary of Environmental Assessment

The "Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement (FGEIS) on Handling and Storage of Spent Light Water Reactor Power Reactor Fuel" (NUREG-0575), Volumes 1, 2 and 3, concluded that the environmental impact of interim storage of spent fuel is negligible, and the cost of the various alternatives reflects

the advantage of continued generation of nuclear power with the attendant requirement of spent fuel storage. Because of the differences in design, the FGEIS recommends evaluating SFP expansions on a case-by case basis.

For Maine Yankee, the expansion of the storage capacity of the SFP will not create any significant additional radiological effects or nonradiological environmental impacts.

The additional whole body dose that might be received by an individual at the site boundary and the estimated dose to the population within an kilometer radius is believed to be too small to have any significance when compared to the fluctuations in the annual dose this population receives from exposure to background radiation. The occupational radiation dose from the proposed operation of the expanded SFP is estimated to be extremely small compared to the total annual occupational radiation exposure for this facility.

No effect on the waste heat rejected by the plant is expected as a result of the reracking effort. Administrative controls currently in place at Maine Yankee ensure that the design limits of the SFP cooling and purification system will not be exceeded under normal or full core discharge conditions.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The NRC staff has reviewed the proposed SFP reracking relative to the requirements set forth in 10 CFR Part 51, Environmental Protection Regulations for Domestic Licensing and Related Regulatory Functions. Based on this assessment, the NRC staff concludes that there are no significant radiological or nonradiological impacts associated with the proposed action and that the issuance of the proposed amendment to the license will have no significant

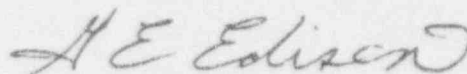
impact on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, pursuant to 10 CFR 51.31, no environmental impact statement need be prepared for this action.

For further details with respect to this action, see (1) the application for amendment as described above, (2) the FGEIS on Handling and Storage of Spent Light Water Power Reactor Fuel (NUREG 0575), (3) the Final Environmental Statement for the Maine Yankee Atomic Power Station, dated July 1972, and (4) the Environmental Assessment of this matter dated February 2, 1994 .

These documents are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC 20555, and at the local public document room located at Wiscasset Public Library, High Street, P.O. Box 367, Wiscasset, Maine 04578.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 2nd day of February , 1994.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



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