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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

Handwritten: Henry - please me - jgd
ACTION

ROBERT E. LIGHTHIZER, CHIEF COUNSEL
MICHAEL STERN, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

July 29, 1982

Mr. Richard DeYoung
Director
Inspection and Enforcement
Division
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. De Young:

I am writing to you in regard to correspondence sent to your office from the Maine Nuclear Referendum Committee (MNRC).

In a letter dated May 12th (copy enclosed), Judy Barrows, MNRC Research Coordinator, wrote to you requesting information on a number of specific safety concerns at the Maine Yankee plant in Wiscasset, Maine. As of this date, the Maine Nuclear Referendum Committee has received no response to their inquiry.

The safety-related issues addressed in Ms. Barrows' letter, pertaining to the resident inspector program and to safety inspections, are very serious and legitimate concerns which I believe the NRC should address at the earliest possible time.

Thank you for your assistance.

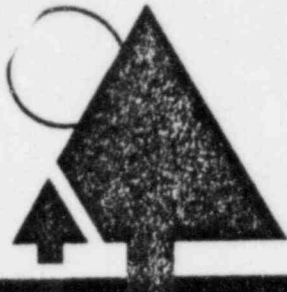
Sincerely,

Handwritten signature: G. J. Mitchell

George J. Mitchell
United States Senator

Enclosure

8207110066



Maine Nuclear Referendum Committee

P. O. Box 2627 or
335 Water Street
Augusta, Maine 04330
622-4395

"To the village square we must carry the facts of atomic energy...from there must come America's voice."

— Albert Einstein

May 12, 1982

Director
Inspection and Enforcement Division
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Dear Sir:

The Maine Nuclear Referendum Committee is supporting a November 2 referendum in Maine which calls for the closing of the Maine Yankee nuclear power plant at Wiscasset in five years. The MNRC has reviewed the June 12, 1981 report of the Committee on Government Operations titled "Inspecting Operating Nuclear Powerplants: Shortcomings in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Program".

As you are undoubtedly aware the report raises a series of questions about the inspection program and makes a number of recommendations for improving the inspection program.

We are particularly interested in the adequacy of the current inspection program at Maine Yankee and would appreciate it if you could provide the following information:

- (1) How many resident inspectors are currently stationed at Maine Yankee?
- (2) On an annual basis what is the percentage of routine required inspections that is being completed?
- (3) How long has the present inspector worked for the NRC in that capacity?
- (4) What education or training qualified him for this position?
- (5) Has any progress been made at this plant in the direction of more "hands on" inspection, as the Committee recommended?
- (6) In general, does the inspection record at Maine Yankee compare favorably or unfavorably with other nuclear plants in Region I?

Sincerely yours,

Judy Barrows
Judy Barrows

Research Coordinator

Dupe
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