

# FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSION

County Commissioners: Margaret Striebel, Chair  
Mary Forbes  
John J. Stobierski

Administrator: 413/774-4015  
Regional Services: 413/774-3167  
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Courthouse • 425 Main Street  
Greenfield, MA 01301-3330

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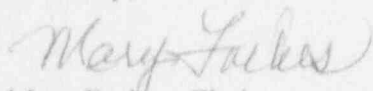
Mr. Morton Fairtile  
Senior Project Manager  
Decommissioning Project Directorate  
Division of Operating Reactor Support  
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20555

April 11, 1994

Dear Mr. Fairtile:

Thank you for agreeing to attend the Franklin County Commissioners meeting on April 19, 1994 regarding the Yankee Nuclear Power Station Decommissioning Plan. We have enclosed the Agenda and Issue Areas which the Franklin County Commissioners would like addressed. We have also noted which agencies we would expect to provide information relative to each of the topics by listing them as "Presenters". If you have any questions please contact our staff person, Peggy Sloan, Director of Planning and Development (413-774-3167).

Sincerely,



Mary Forbes, Chair  
Franklin County Commissioners

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## MEETING NOTICE

**FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
APRIL 19, 1994  
7:00 p.m.  
SUPERIOR COURT ROOM  
FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE**

## AGENDA

1. Introduction - Franklin County Commissioner Mary Forbes
2. Presentation and Discussion of Yankee Nuclear Power Station Decommissioning Plan  
*Moderator: Franklin County Commissioner Mary Forbes*
3. Public Questions & Comments

*The Franklin County Commission does not discriminate on the basis of disability with respect to admission to, access to, or operation of its programs, services or activities. Individuals who need auxiliary aids for effective communication with respect to programs and services of the Commission should contact the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance Coordinator.*

**ISSUE AREAS TO BE PRESENTED AND DISCUSSED  
AT APRIL 19, 1994  
FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

**1.) Decommissioning & Early Component Removal Process - Presenters:** Yankee Atomic Electric Company & Nuclear Regulatory Commission

- *Please explain the legality of the Early Component Removal Process given the recent lawsuit by the Citizen Awareness Network.*
- *What public safety and environmental risks are posed without an approved Decommissioning Plan?*

**2.) Regulatory Oversight - Role of Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health & Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency - Presenters:** Yankee Atomic Electric, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Massachusetts Department of Public Health & Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

- *Given significant regional public health and environmental concerns, what independent review of the decontamination, dismantlement, survey and site release activities will occur during the Decommissioning Process?*

**3.) High Level Radioactive Waste Disposal - Presenters:** Yankee Atomic Electric Company & Nuclear Regulatory Commission

- *Please explain the status of the spent fuel disposal issue at the federal level?*
- *What are Yankee's plans for the site if the spent fuel remains until 2018 or later depending on the Department of Energy's actions?*
- *If the Department of Energy takes on the financial responsibility for on-site spent fuel storage, will this lead to a change of ownership and site release date?*

**4.) Low Level Radioactive Waste Disposal - Presenter:** Yankee Atomic Electric Company

- *What are Yankee's views on the Massachusetts Low Level Radioactive Waste Board's decision to start the siting process for a L.L.R.W. disposal facility given Yankee's need for a L.L.R.W. site in order to proceed with Decommissioning?*

## 5.) Protection of Regional Public Health & the Environment -

*Presenters:* Yankee Atomic Electric, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Massachusetts Department of Public Health & Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

- *How were the assumptions developed for the accident analysis and potential exposure risks to the public and are these reviewed and approved by the NRC and relevant state agencies? Please elaborate about what assumptions they incorporate about wind, exposure levels, etc.*
- *Radiological surveys and accident analyses are based upon EPA standards for humans. While public safety is paramount, what guidelines or standards will be met to protect the environment and the habitat and species it supports?*
- *How do discharges to the air and water differ during decontamination and dismantlement in comparison to regular operations (more, less, or the same)? For example, with all the contaminated wastewater generated by pressure washing of contaminated structures, etc. it would suggest that higher levels of discharge would occur. Will the NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permit, which governs the release of waste to the water and air, be modified to reflect SAFSTOR and decommissioning?*
- *Is there a report of actual releases versus permitted releases and how often is it made available to the public?*
- *What practices are being utilized to minimize radioactive waste generation?*
- *Are there public health precautions which residents should take during decommissioning?*
- *Tritium leaked into groundwater in 1965 because of a breach in the Ion Exchange Pit. The Decommissioning Plan states it is presently below EPA limits for community water systems. Have studies been conducted to address any cumulative impacts to fisheries and habitat areas along the Deerfield River?*
- *Will the contaminated sediments in Sherman Pond be cleaned up to minimize risk to public health and the environment?*
- *Explain how processing of radioactive waste reduces contamination levels - are radionuclides reduced in wastewater released or does disposal rely primarily on dilution? For solid waste, is there a net reduction in contamination or merely a change in how it is stored which improves protection for public safety and the environment?*

**6.) Process for Final Site Release & Future Reuse of Site - Presenters: Yankee Atomic Electric & Nuclear Regulatory Commission**

- *Does Yankee have any future plans for reuse of the site such as non-nuclear electric generation given the investment in transmission capacity?*
- *What will be the grid spacing for the radiological survey leading to release of the site? (One would assume a smaller spacing would be utilized since the preliminary survey used a spacing of 20 meters (approx. 65 feet) for outdoor sample locations leaving significant potentially contaminated areas untested).*
- *Background levels of Cesium 137 is attributed to atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons, but it is unclear what portion might be attributable to atmospheric releases made by the plant during its 31 year operating history on off-site areas. How will that be distinguished from background levels?*
- *Please comment on the comprehensive study to assess the nature and extent of the impact of radioactive emissions on human health and ecology proposed by the State legislature?*
- *Please outline what procedures and actions will be taken to release the site, what criteria must be met to ensure public health and environmental protection, and what independent review will occur prior to site release for unrestricted use.*