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May 30, 1996

Shirley Ann Jackson, Chairwoman  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

Re: Maine Yankee

Dear Chairwoman Jackson:

I received a copy of the recent report of the NRC's Office of Inspector General concerning the NRC staff's actions relating to the oversight of Maine Yankee's nuclear power facility in Wiscasset, Maine. You will recall that I wrote to you on March 1, to indicate that I had received an outpouring of concerns from Maine citizens regarding the NRC's pending investigation of Maine Yankee, and that some of those public concerns were directed at the integrity of the NRC staff's regulatory work as well as at alleged violations by Maine Yankee itself. Needless to say, that outpouring of public concern continues unabated. Indeed, the Inspector General's report adds appreciably to the cause for legitimate public concern.

As Maine's Attorney General, I would like to know what measures the NRC is taking to avoid future mistakes in regulatory oversight that are so powerfully depicted in the Inspector General's report. Please let me know what steps are being taken to assure that these mistakes, which occurred prior to the onset of your administration at the NRC, will not recur, and that the NRC, under your leadership, is vigorously pursuing its regulatory, oversight and enforcement role at Maine Yankee.

As indicated in my last letter, this office has not attempted to become directly involved in these matters, out of respect for the fact that federal law is substantially preemptive of state law enforcement authority in this area, and out of our trust that your agency has the resolve and the capability to fully and independently pursue your work, including in the current investigation of Maine Yankee. While I appreciate the content and tone of your letter to me of April 4, I do ask you to let me know what the NRC is doing to respond to the failures shown in the Inspector General's report.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Andrew Ketterer".

ANDREW KETTERER  
Attorney General