

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 1662**

H. P. 1382

House of Representatives, April 13, 1977

On Motion of Mr. Blodgett of Waldoboro, referred to Committee on Natural Resources. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Greenlaw of Stonington.

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**STATE OF MAINE**

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-SEVEN

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**AN ACT Relating to Discharges, Emissions and Leakages from Nuclear  
Generating Facilities.**

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Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

35 MRSA c. 269 is enacted to read:

**CHAPTER 269**

**NUCLEAR POWER GENERATING FACILITIES**

**SUBCHAPTER I**

**EMISSIONS AND LEAKAGE CONTROL**

§ 333I. Purpose

The Legislature finds that the risks and dangers of radioactive discharges, leaks and emissions are significantly great and produce irreparable harm to man and the environment. The levels of radiation that man and the environment can endure are significantly less than previously established and research indicates that these levels will be further reduced. Storage facilities for nuclear wastes in Maine are impermanent and pose a serious threat to man and the environment. Furthermore, inspection of nuclear energy generating facilities is not comprehensive, particularly with respect to radioactive emissions. The Legislature finds, therefore, that the public welfare will be better protected by careful monitoring by the Public Utilities Commission of radioactive discharges and emissions of nuclear energy generating facilities.

**§ 3332. Report to the Public Utilities Commission**

No nuclear energy generating facility shall operate in Maine unless the officials of the facility provide the following information to the Public Utilities Commission on a monthly basis:

1. Discharges. A description of the causes, effects and amounts of any radioactive discharges, leakages and emissions at the facility or during the transit of nuclear fuel.

2. Fuel storage. A description of on-site fuel storage facilities to include the inventory of new fuel in storage, the inventory of spent fuel in storage, the total capacity of the facility for the storage of spent fuel and the quantity of new fuel on order for the ensuing month.

3. Repairs and construction. A description of any planned and actual construction or repairs that will affect fuel storage or may have an effect on radioactive discharges or emissions.

4. Control efforts. Efforts undertaken by the nuclear energy generating facility to reduce or prevent any radioactive discharge or emissions.

5. Shipments and routes. A description of all shipments of new fuel to the nuclear energy generating facility to include a description of the route over which the shipments are transported, the means of transportation and the quantity transported, and a description of all shipments of spent fuel from the nuclear energy generating facility to include the means of transportation, the destination, the route and the quantity transported.

**§ 3333. Accident reports**

All nuclear energy generating facilities shall immediately report any accidents or radioactive emissions, leakages or discharges to the Public Utilities Commission, the Department of Human Services and the Bureau of Civil Emergency Preparedness.

1. Ensuing procedure. The Public Utilities Commission, the Commissioner of Human Services and the Commissioner of Defense and Veterans Services shall create an emergency plan consistent with the provisions of the radiation plan established by Title 22, section 760, and the emergency plan shall be implemented if it is warranted by the accident.

2. Report to the Federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The Public Utilities Commission shall report all radioactive emissions, leakages, discharges or accidents to the Federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

3. Review of daily logs. The Commissioner of Human Services or his designee shall review the daily logs of all nuclear energy generating facilities and shall report any findings that he deems necessary to the Public Utilities Commission.

**STATEMENT OF FACT**

The intent of this bill is to provide the maximum protection possible for the citizens of Maine from radioactive emissions, leaks and discharges. Ac-

ording to a federal government study of the deaths of 3,883 workers in nuclear power plants, between 1944 and 1972, radiation exposure resulted in a higher rate of cancer than the national average.

Between January and June, 1976, according to a New York Times article (October 24, 1976), there were 437 reported nuclear reactor mishaps. Statistics indicate that 18 reactions accidentally emitted highly toxic gasses and liquids into the environment at 23 different times in 11 states. In addition, the article pointed out that there are 46 errors in design that have been discovered in 25 nuclear energy generating plants.

Presently there is roughly 85,000,000 gallons of radioactive waste temporarily stored in the United States. This waste must be stored for 25,000 years. In Maine, waste nuclear fuel is stored in the generating facility. Since there is no accident free system, this bill is designed to provide immediate action to protect Maine citizens.