

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 1196

H.P. 895 House of Representatives, April 9, 1987
Reference to the Committee on Human Resources suggested
and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk
Presented by Representative HOLT of Bath.
Cosponsored by Senator KANY of Kennebec.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SEVEN

1 AN ACT to Improve the Quality of Information
2 Available to the Department of Human
3 Services on Radioactive Emissions from
4 Nuclear Power Plants.
5

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

8 Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §674, sub-§4, ¶¶H and I, as en-
9 acted by PL 1983, c. 345, §§13 and 14, are amended to
10 read:

11 H. Encourage, participate in, or conduct
12 studies, investigations, training, research and
13 demonstrations relating to control of sources of
14 radiation; and

15 I. Collect and disseminate information relating
16 to control of sources of radiation, including:

1 (1) Maintenance of a file of all license
2 applications, issuances, denials, amend-
3 ments, transfers, renewals, modifications,
4 suspensions and revocations;

5 (2) Maintenance of a file of registrants
6 possessing sources of radiation requiring
7 registration under this Act and any adminis-
8 trative or judicial action pertaining there-
9 to; and

10 (3) Maintenance of a file of all of the de-
11 partment's rules relating to regulation of
12 sources of radiation, pending or promul-
13 gated, and proceedings thereon; and

14 Sec. 2. 22 M RSA §674, sub-§4, ¶J is enacted to
15 read:

16 J. Establish, or require the establishment of,
17 an appropriate off-site radiation monitoring sys-
18 tem which will identify, quantify and record the
19 radioactive components of all gaseous and liquid
20 discharges from any nuclear power facility oper-
21 ating in the State, including provisions for
22 alerting the public if dangerous levels are
23 reached. The system shall be established to pro-
24 vide information to the department's Augusta of-
25 fice on a continuous, current basis, but may pro-
26 vide for tying into the State Police or other ap-
27 propriate communications network to provide
28 24-hour alert coverage. The cost of establishing
29 and maintaining the monitoring system provided in
30 this paragraph shall be paid from fees estab-
31 lished pursuant to section 680, subsection 2.

1

STATEMENT OF FACT

2 This bill requires the Department of Human Ser-
3 vices, which is designated in current law as the
4 State Radiation Control Agency, to establish an inde-
5 pendent on-site radiation monitoring system to iden-
6 tify, quantify and record radioactive emissions from
7 a nuclear power facility operating in Maine. The
8 system will continuously transmit this information to
9 the department's Augusta office.

10 The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has estimated
11 that there is a 50/50 chance of a serious accident
12 occurring at a nuclear power plant in the United
13 States before the year 2000. This probability in-
14 creases with the age of any individual plant and,
15 with the increased probability of an accident, there
16 is an increased need for vigilance. This bill pro-
17 vides the State with independent access to timely and
18 accurate information which will be needed in order to
19 set policy and manage any emergency which may arise.
20 The costs of the monitoring program are to be covered
21 by generator fees established by the department under
22 existing law.

23 The proposed remote monitoring system will be
24 modeled on a comprehensive system now being developed
25 by the State of Illinois and a similar system pro-
26 posed for Massachusetts. In both cases, the full
27 cost will be borne by the utility.

28 The Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety's Re-
29 mote Monitoring System incorporates 3 major compo-
30 nents; gross gamma detectors radially positioned
31 around each nuclear power system; on-line automated
32 isotopic gaseous effluent monitors, which sample from
33 major engineered release points; and an on-line reac-
34 tor parameter data communication link to each
35 facility's on-site computer. In addition, on-line
36 liquid effluent monitors, which will be located at
37 each plant's liquid discharge points, are scheduled
38 for installation at 2 sites in the next year.

39 All remote monitoring system components are con-
40 nected, through dedicated data communications links,
41 to the Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety

1 Radiological Emergency Assessment Center. There, a
2 technical staff comprised of nuclear engineers,
3 health physicists and other nuclear safety special-
4 ists review the data and perform analyses of plant
5 conditions. This radiological emergency assessment
6 center staff is divided into 2 analytical groups; one
7 concerned with the status of reactor safety systems;
8 and the other with environmental assessment.

9 The objectives of the remote monitoring system
10 are threefold: Early warning of nuclear reactor
11 events having a potential off-site impact; fast risk
12 analysis of reactor systems; and a rapid identifica-
13 tion, quantification and verification of a radioac-
14 tive release to the environment. Each of these ob-
15 jectives plays an essential role in assuring the
16 ability to recommend prompt off-site protection.

17 The estimated cost of such a system for the situ-
18 ation in Maine would be approximately \$1.6 million in
19 capital and \$500,000 annually in staff salaries.
20 This cost should be viewed in the context of \$1.4
21 million in damages which has already been awarded in
22 settlement of the first 300 lawsuits claiming death
23 or injury as a result of the Three Mile Island acci-
24 dent. Two thousand two hundred lawsuits still remain
25 to be settled. The total cost of that single acci-
26 dent may exceed \$100 million.

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