

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 1266

H.P. 943 House of Representatives, April 14, 1987
Reference to the Committee on Utilities suggested and
ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk
Presented by Representative HOLT of Bath.

Cosponsored by Representative BEGLEY of Waldoboro and
Senator KANY of Kennebec.

STATE OF MAINE

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

1 AN ACT to Protect the Health of Maine
2 Citizens by Providing Improved
3 Monitoring Capability for Radiation
4 Levels around Nuclear Power
5 Facilities.
6

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

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

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

1 I. Collect and disseminate information relating
2 to control of sources of radiation, including:

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

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

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

16 Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §674, sub-§4, ¶J is enacted to
17 read:

18 J. Establish, at various sites in the Emergency
19 Planning Zone around any nuclear power reactor
20 operating in the State, a remote monitoring sys-
21 tem capable of continuously monitoring gamma ra-
22 diation levels. The department shall compile the
23 results of that monitoring into a weekly report
24 which shall be made available to interested mem-
25 bers of the public. The cost of establishing and
26 maintaining the monitoring system and of dissemi-
27 nating the results, as provided in this para-
28 graph, shall be paid from fees established pursu-
29 ant 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
5 off-site system to monitor gamma radiation around nu-
6 clear power facilities located in the State. Nuclear
7 power plants produce radioactive materials which emit
8 gamma radiation. The major component of the gaseous
9 radioactive emissions from a nuclear power plant is
10 Xenen-133, which emits gamma radiation in the 80-81
11 kilo electron volt range. The monitoring system will
12 warn of elevated radiation levels and track their
13 flow. Such a system will provide an independent
14 source of information to supplement the present in-
15 formation provided by the generating facility, which
16 is not always timely or accurate. The information
17 such a monitoring system could provide would be in-
18 strumental in any fast-developing emergency situa-
19 tion. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has estimat-
20 ed that there is a 50-50 chance of a serious accident
21 occurring at a nuclear power plant in the United
22 States before the year 2000. This probability in-
23 creases with the age of any individual plant; and
24 with the increased probability of an accident, there
25 is an increased need for vigilance. This bill pro-
26 vides the State with independent access to timely and
27 accurate information which will be needed in order to
28 set policy and manage any emergency which may arise.

29 It is the intent of this bill that the required
30 off-site monitoring system be implemented by expand-
31 ing the existing network of volunteer monitoring.
32 Additional radiation monitoring instruments would be
33 provided to volunteer monitors in the Emergency Plan-
34 ning Zone who will maintain the instruments, perform
35 periodic checks of their operation and report to the
36 Department of Human Services.

37 The bill also provides for compilation and dis-
38 semination of the results of the monitoring in order
39 to keep the public informed. The costs of the moni-
40 toring program are to be covered by generator fees
41 established by the department under existing law. It
42 is estimated that the costs will be approximately
43 \$10,000 to \$15,000 for research and development of

1 appropriate monitoring devices and \$5,000 for monitor
2 parts.

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