

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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February 2, 2017

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Senator Michael Thibodeau, President of the Senate, and Representative Sara Gideon, Speaker of the House

**FROM:** Mary C. Mayhew, Commissioner  
Department of Health and Human Services 

**SUBJECT:** State Nuclear Safety Inspector's November and December 2016 Monthly Report to the Legislature on the Interim Spent Fuel Storage Facility in Wiscasset, Maine

Legislation enacted in the spring of 2008 requires the State Nuclear Safety Inspector to provide monthly reports to the President of the Senate, Speaker of the House, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and Maine Yankee. The report emphasizes local and national highlights on the storing and disposing the used nuclear fuel.

The enclosed report provides the information required under Title 22 of the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated §666, as enacted under Public Law, Chapter 539, in the second regular session of the 123<sup>rd</sup> Legislature.

Should you have questions about its content, please feel free to contact Mr. Patrick J. Dostie, State Nuclear Safety Inspector, at 287-6721.

MCM/klv

Enclosure

cc: Mark Lombard, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Monica Ford, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region I  
J Stanley Brown, Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation Manager, Maine Yankee  
David Sorenson, Senior Health Policy Advisor  
Sheryl Peavey, COO, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention  
Paul Mercer, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection  
Timothy Schneider, Maine Public Advocate  
Lieutenant Scott Ireland, Special Services Unit, Maine State Police  
Nancy Beardsley, Director, Division of Environmental Health  
Jay Hyland, PE, Manager, Radiation Control Program

State Nuclear Safety Inspector Office  
Maine CDC – DHHS

November 2016 Monthly Report to the Legislature

The report covers activities at the Maine Yankee Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) facility, including the State's ongoing environmental radiation surveillance and provides updates on the national effort to license and construct a consolidated interim storage facility and/or a permanent geologic repository for the disposal of spent nuclear fuel. Maine's goal is to move the ISFSI waste stored at Maine Yankee to one of these facilities. The report highlights the significant activities that took place locally and nationally during the month.

Local:

- Marge Kilkelly, Senior Policy Advisor to Senator Angus King, presented to the Wiscasset Board of Selectman a proposal to form an alliance with 13 other communities across the country storing spent nuclear fuel as an information-sharing network. The proposal would also include a transportation infrastructure analysis surrounding each storage facility to decide how to move the spent fuel to a permanent site. The Board did not immediately vote on the proposal.

National:

- AREVA Federal Services reported that they had completed Phase I of their three phase, Department of Energy project to design and fabricate a prototype railcar for the transportation of high-level radioactive material to the Association of American Railroads' standards. The Phase I work included the mobilization and conceptual design of the railcar and its associated buffer railcars, the design of the cradles for securing the high-level waste, the general loading procedures, and the cask railcar's operational and maintenance requirements.
- The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) announced that they were seeking comments from the public as to the extent and scope of what their environmental review should encompass on the Waste Control Specialists' (WCS) license application to construct and operate a spent nuclear fuel storage facility in Andrews County, Texas. Even though the NRC has not yet accepted the WCS application for technical review, they do have the requisite information to begin the environmental scoping process.
- The Finnish Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority confirmed that the waste management company of Posiva was ready to begin construction of the world's first geologic repository for spent nuclear fuel on Olkiluoto Island, in the western part of the country. With the approval of the last government agency, Posiva said that it would start the underground excavations in December and expected the repository to begin operations in 2023.