

# 3 Yankee Companies & National SNF Issue Update

NEHLRWT Taskforce Virtual Meeting

October 29, 2020

Eric Howes, Director Public & Government  
Affairs Maine Yankee



# Plant Decommissioning to ISFSI-Only Sites

- Maine Yankee, Connecticut Yankee, Yankee Rowe: [3Yankees.com](http://3Yankees.com).
- Single unit sites shutdown in the 90's for economic reasons.
- By 2007, plant decommissioning complete: Plant structures removed; Large radiological components shipped by rail, barge, and heavy haul; Sites environmentally restored.
- During that process, all SNF & Greater-than-Class C waste moved to stand-alone dry cask storage ISFSIs; land apart from the ISFSIs released from the NRC license.
- When DOE fulfills its contractual obligations to remove the SNF/GTCC waste, ISFSIs will be decommissioned, NRC licenses terminated, land will be available for repurposing, companies will go out of business.
- Companies remain in business solely because DOE has not fulfilled its obligation to remove the SNF/GTCC waste from the sites.
- Maine Yankee would have been out of business in 2008, Connecticut Yankee and Yankee Rowe by the end of 2010 had DOE begun removing the SNF/GTCC waste as required in 1998.
- Current annual cost to operate each company and its ISFSI is about \$10 million.

# Permanently & Announced Shutdown Nuclear Plant Sites



**1. Big Rock**  
Charlevoix, MI

**2. Byron Station**  
Byron, IL  
*Announced Shutdown, 2021*

**3. Connecticut Yankee**  
Haddam Neck, CT

**4. Crystal River**  
Crystal River, FL

**5. Diablo Canyon**  
Avila Beach, CA  
*Announced Shutdown, 2025*

**6. Dresden Station**  
Morris, IL  
*Announced Shutdown, 2021*

**7. Duane Arnold**  
Palo, IA

**8. Fort Calhoun**  
Blair, NE

**9. Humboldt Bay**  
Eureka, CA

**10. Indian Point**  
Buchanan, NY  
*Announced Shutdown, 2021*

**11. Kewaunee**  
Kewaunee, WI

**12. La Crosse**  
Genoa, WI

**13. Maine Yankee**  
Wiscasset, ME

**14. Oyster Creek**  
Lacey Township, NJ

**15. Palisades**  
Covert, MI  
*Announced Shutdown, 2022*

**16. Pilgrim**  
Plymouth, MA

**17. Rancho Seco**  
Herald, CA

**18. San Onofre**  
Pendleton, CA

**19. Three Mile Island**  
Middletown, PA

**20. Trojan**  
Rainier, OR

**21. Vermont Yankee**  
Vernon, VT

**22. Yankee Rowe**  
Rowe, MA

**23. Zion**  
Zion, IL



# 3 Yankees Former Plant Sites



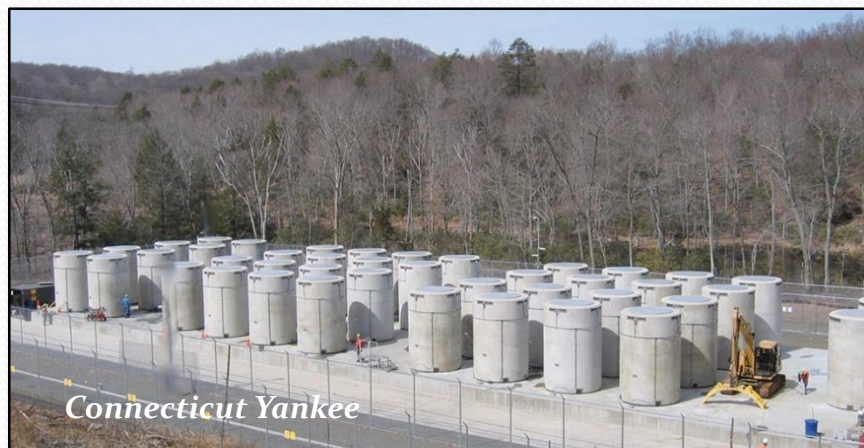


# 3 Yankees ISFSIs



## Yankee Rowe ISFSI

- 15 Spent Fuel Dry Casks
- 1 GTCC Dry Cask
- NAC MPC System
- CoC Expires April 10, 2020



## Maine Yankee ISFSI

- 60 Spent Fuel Dry Casks
- 4 GTCC Dry Casks
- NAC UMS System
- CoC Expires November 20, 2020



## Connecticut Yankee ISFSI

- 40 Spent Fuel Dry Casks
- 3 GTCC Dry Casks
- NAC MPC System
- CoC Expires April 10, 2020

## Cask Relicensing

- The 3 Yankees are working with dry cask storage vendor NAC International to relicense the NRC storage Certificate of Compliance for the NAC MPC system in use at CY and YR, and the NAC UMS system in use at MY. Both expire this year.
- The MPC C of C storage renewal application was submitted on 12/18/19. The UMS C of C was submitted on 10/13/20. Submittal and acceptance of the renewal application extends the existing C of C until completion of the NRC review.
- The storage C of C renewal period for both systems is 40 years.
- There is a separate transportation C of C for the MPC and UMS systems that addresses the shipment for all the SNF/GTCC waste stored at the 3 sites and that is renewed every 5 years.

# Congress

## Continuing Resolution

- At the end of September Congress passed and the President signed into law a CR to fund the government to December 11, thus avoiding a government shutdown at the end of the fiscal year September 30.

## FY 2021 Funding Bills

- The House Appropriations Committee approved the FY 2021 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill on July 13: \$20 m for CIS, 7.5 m for NWF oversight.
- The Energy and Water Development bill was included in a House minibus bill (H.R. 7617) that passed the House on July 31 and would fund DOE and other federal departments included in the bill from October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021.
- The Senate Energy and Water Development Subcommittee has not yet scheduled a markup hearing on the FY 2021 funding bill and the Appropriations Committee has not marked up any of its bills.

# Congress continued

## Spent Fuel Authorization Legislation and Related Activity

- There's been no movement of note on any of the Senate or House authorizing legislation previously discussed with the NE SRG since the October 2019 update in Roswell, NM.
- “The Report of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Taskforce” headed by Rep Mike Levin (D-CA) was issued in June with 30 recommendations regarding SNF storage and disposal including the formation of a SNF caucus in Congress “to discuss spent nuclear fuel storage, disposal, and transportation issues.”
- “The Spent Nuclear Fuel Solutions Research and Development Act” (H.R. 8258) introduced 9/15 by Rep Levin was included in the comprehensive energy bill the “Clean Economy Jobs and Innovation Act” that passed the House on 9/24.
- The Levin bill would largely fund a SNF research and development program within DOE regarding dry cask storage, CIS, deep geological storage and disposal, and SNF transportation.



## Congress continued

- The Senate's comprehensive clean energy bill, "The American Energy Innovation Act" was introduced in February by Senator Murkowski (R-AK), Chair of the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee and Ranking Member Manchin (D-WV). It was brought to the floor last spring but was not acted on due to issues that have since been ironed out.
- The Senate Democrats' Special Committee on the Climate Crisis issued its report August 26, "The Case for Climate Action Building a Clean Economy for the American People." The report states, "The United States still lacks a comprehensive strategy on how to store nuclear waste, and some communities where nuclear power is generated, or waste is stored have expressed safety and security concerns. Congress should pursue a consent-based siting process when addressing the disposal of our nation's nuclear waste and provide support to communities that are currently grappling with stranded nuclear waste."
- The "Nuclear Plant Decommissioning Act of 2020" (H.R. 8277) was introduced in the House by Rep Welch (D-VT) on 9/16 along with a companion Senate bill sponsored by Senators Sanders (I-VT) and Leahy (D-VT). The bill would give states a greater role in the decommissioning process including post shutdown decommissioning activity reports, community advisory boards, and license transfers. Funding would also be provided to shutdown site communities.

# Nuclear Regulatory Commission

## Yucca Mountain Knowledge Management Roadmap

- The NRC Commissioners recently approved a recommendation by staff to use \$164,000 in previously appropriated monies from the NWF to produce a knowledge management “roadmap” for the suspended Yucca Mountain license review. The roadmap would serve to guide future NRC staff should the Yucca Mountain license review process resume at some point. Many of the NRC staff who worked on the Yucca Mountain Safety Evaluation Report have either retired or are nearing retirement.

## Private CIS License Applications – Holtec, NM; Interim Storage Partners, TX

- On 3/11/20, the NRC issued its draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Holtec CIS application. The DEIS concludes that the environmental impacts of the New Mexico project would not preclude granting Holtec a license. The ISP DEIS was issued by the NRC 5/6/20. As noted in the NRC press release, “After considering the environmental impacts of the proposed action, the NRC staff’s preliminary recommendation is issuance of an NRC license.”

## Nuclear Regulatory Commission continued

- The NRC public comment period on Holtec DEIS ended September 22nd following several virtual NRC public comment webinars. The public comment period for the ISP DEIS is scheduled to end November 3<sup>rd</sup>, and the last of the multiple virtual NRC public comment webinars on the ISP DEIS was on October 15th.
- Most of the comments during the NRC webinars were in opposition to the proposed CIS projects. Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham of New Mexico and Governor Greg Abbott of Texas both sent letters to President Trump opposing the projects.
- Oral and and/or written comment in favor of the proposed CIS projects or the concept of CIS were submitted by the Nuclear Energy Institute, the Nuclear Waste Strategy Coalition, and the American Nuclear Society.
- The NRC recently issued letters to both Holtec and ISP that revise the publication date of the final EIS for both projects from May to July 2021 due to delays caused by Covid-19, while the date for the NRC to issue the final Safety Evaluation Report for both remains May 2021.

# Transportation Symposium

- NEI is planning an end of January 2021 virtual symposium on the transportation (mainly by rail) of SNF with a focus on New Mexico.
- The symposium is centered on transportation safety, not advocacy for CIS.
- A lot of the comments in the NRC public comment webinars on the Holtec and ISP DEISs were concerns about transportation.
- The symposium will seek to address those concerns.





**Thank You**

**Questions?**