

This is a somewhat random timeline of events described in articles recently accessed from the Lincoln County News archives. It incorporates roughly the period from 1872-1996 when the Maine Yankee Power Plant was operating.

**1966 The Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company formed.**

**Nov 5, 1970 Reactor arrives** at Wiscasset(photo). A 950 ton barge load of nuclear equipment which arrived Monday at the Maine Yankee Atomic Power Co.'s \$181 million Power facility under construction at Wiscasset. The shipment includes an 855 megawatt nuclear reactor vessel and other nuclear power equipment.

**Feb 10, 1972** Maine Yankee.. wants to **discharge water warmed 25 degrees** into a bay that does not flush completely at each tide, a bay rich in marine worms, shellfish, striped bass, smelts, and other desirable and profitable marine life. Margaret Phinney

**March 22, 1975, fire at the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, Alabama**

**1978** Peter Atherton, electrical engineer, NRC fire inspector, hired by NRC: concludes that for **safety reasons the whole Maine Yankee Nuclear Power plant needed complete re-wiring.**(His concerns were not addressed until 1996.)

**March 1979 Three Mile Island Nuclear Power Plant disaster, Pennsylvania**

**April 17, 1979** Edgecomb Town Hall meeting 1,500 attended to hear speakers, building was full and people were standing outside in the rain (in book by Maria Holt). Alan Philbrook, a Marine Engineer and former auxiliary operator at Maine Yankee speaks.

**June 7, 1979** About 350 persons demonstrated in Wiscasset and marched to the Maine Yankee atomic power plant to demand its immediate shutdown in a low-key demonstration sponsored by the Bath-Brunswick Clamshell Alliance Sunday afternoon.

**July 31, 1980** Referendum foes agree bills would rise-but how much?

**1986 Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant disaster, Ukraine**

**Nov 2, 1987** NYT The referendum Tuesday marks the third vote in seven years on whether to **close Maine Yankee**, which now generates 27 percent of the state's electricity.

**Feb 1995 Maine Yankee shuts down:** an **anonymous letter** by someone alleging to be a long time employee of Yankee Atomic Electric Co. The letter says the computer code RELAP5YA used to verify Maine Yankee's emergency core cooling system produced faulty data, and further says Yankee Atomic, who developed the code, and Maine Yankee knew of the deficiencies

**May 25, 1995** Testing earlier this year found about **60 percent of the Wiscasset plant's 17,103 tubes had significant cracking.** Maine Yankee has been shutdown since January. The sleeves will be placed on all of the tubes, making this project the largest ever done on a nuclear power plant in history. (mentions Bill Linnell's work on the tubes/failure. And legislation that Herb Adams was moving forward-see report on fire in his apartment)

**Sept 14, 1995** If there is radioactivity in the steam, like there was when they found the 10,000 cracked tubes, then you have an unscheduled release of a very large amount of radioactivity. Not a pretty picture, when you live three miles downwind. Oh yes, Maine Yankee Atomic Power Station has had, **as of January 1995 ... 117 SCRAMS!** Michael McConnell Boothbay

**Jan 11, 1996** Maine Yankee resumes operation(May 17, 1996 Lincoln Times)

**Jan 11, 1996** King also met with Charles Ipcar of the Committee for a Safe Energy Future and Maria Holt of Safe Power for Maine on Friday .."The NRC is really shirking their responsibility. They are paid to protect the safety of the public, not paid to let Maine Yankee regulate themselves," said Committee for a Safe Energy Future spokesman Bill Linnell, who favors an independent safety review by the state. ...The increase in on-site inspection comes as **the NRC suspended Maine Yankee's ability to operate at full power** (910 megawatts) while continuing the investigation in claims made in an anonymous letter last month.

**April 17, 1997** It has been a long time since **Peter Atherton** has been inside a nuclear power plant. The former Nuclear Regulatory Commission engineer who was fired one week after detailing problems he found at Maine Yankee... Seals used to prevent fire spreading at Maine Yankee nuclear power plant in Wiscasset are defective, plant officials told the Nuclear Regulatory Commission last month. It is estimated that 1600 to 1700 of the plant's 2600 seals will have to be replaced at a cost of \$3.8 million, part of the estimated \$38 million cost of work at the plant in the months ahead. Maine Yankee has been shutdown since December.

**May 8, 1997** In December, Maine Yankee went **offline after finding cable separation problems.** A "much more rigorous" engineering analysis has shown Maine Yankee needs to address another issue before restarting... Guidelines for the use of potassium iodide (KI) to protect the thyroid from the harmful effects of radiation exposure. The dose guidelines are 130 milligrams a day for adults, breast feeding mothers and children above 12 years of age.

**1997 Decommissioning of Maine Yankee Nuclear Power Plant begins**

**Aug 4, 2004** Maria Holt letter: Nuclear power is not a responsible solution to global warming. Maine Voices, Portland Press Herald

**2011 Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant accident**