NRC NEWS
U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, REGION I

475 Allendale Road, King of Prussia, Pa. 19406

CONTACT: Diane Screnci (610)337-5330/ e-mail: dps@nrc.gov
Neil A. Sheehan (610)337-5331/e-mail: nas@nrc.gov

or vld@nrc.gov

I-96-44 July 10, 1996
Contact: Diane Screnci FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Victor Dricks

NRC ASSESSMENT TEAM TO BEGIN WORK JULY 15
AT MAINE YANKEE PLANT; ENTRANCE MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Independent Safety Assessment Team, which will examine the performance of the Maine Yankee nuclear plant, will begin its work on site Monday (July 15).

The team will meet with officials of Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company at 1 p.m. that day to discuss the scope of its inspection. The meeting will be held in the Maine Yankee Information Center at the plant site on Ferry Road and will be open for public observation.

The 24-member team will be on site at Maine Yankee July 15-26 and August 12-23.

The independent assessment team reports to NRC Chairman Shirley Ann Jackson and has a Commission-approved charter. The team will assess how well Maine Yankee conforms to its design and licensing basis. It will further examine the plant's operational safety performance and will determine the effectiveness of the utility's self-assessments, corrective actions and improvement plans. In its report, which will be issued in early October, the team will determine the safety significance of its findings and draw conclusions about overall performance.

Edward L. Jordan, director of the NRC Office for Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data, is manager of the assessment team. The team leader is Ellis Merschoff, Director of the Division of Reactor Projects at NRC's regional office in Atlanta. Team members include NRC inspectors and specialists, representatives of the State of Maine, and contractors from national laboratories and independent consulting firms.

NRC will hold a public meeting in early October to discuss the team's findings.