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7-11-1971

## **Press Release - Senator Muskie Supports Citizens Petition to AEC**

Edmund S. Muskie

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*Senator Edmund S.*

## *MUSKIE*

*Maine*

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FOR RELEASE

July 11, 1971

### **"Senator Muskie Supports Citizens Petitions to AEC"**

WASHINGTON--Senator Edmund S. Muskie (D.Me.) announced that he is supporting the requests of the State of Maine and two environmental organizations to participate in proposed hearings by the Atomic Energy Commission regarding the application of Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company for an operating license.

In a letter to Dr. Glenn Seaborg, Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, Senator Muskie encouraged approval of petitions filed by the State, the Natural Resources Council, and Citizens for Safe Power in order to achieve a "fair and balanced discussion of the issues" affecting the Wiscasset plant.

"In view of the public controversy on the subject of nuclear power plants, I feel that the power company, the government and the public would benefit from an open, objective review of the Wiscasset plant", Senator Muskie said.

The Atomic Energy Commission is being urged to hold public hearings before reaching a decision on Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company's request for an operating license. The State of Maine, the Natural Resources Council, and Citizens for Safe Power have all petitioned the AEC for the right to intervene in the proceedings.

In addition to supporting the request of the State to intervene, Senator Muskie also stated that "to encourage a fair and balanced discussion of the issues involved, it seems only reasonable that leading public interest groups participate in hearings on a matter of significant concern to the citizens of Maine."