

1                   **Vermont Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel (VT NDCAP)**  
2                   **Issues Committee Meeting Notes**  
3                   **Wednesday, June 3, 2020 (6:00 to 7:00 PM)**  
4                   **Microsoft Teams Teleconference**  
5

6 An audio / webcast recording of this meeting is available at:

7 <https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/a852edd3-fc71-48c8-a532-6036c4758a70>  
8

9 *Note: These meeting notes were compiled by Tony Leshinskie. They will be reviewed and*  
10 *revised as necessary by the VT NDCAP Members who attended the June 3 meeting.*  
11

12 VT NDCAP Members Present:

- 13 • **Josh Unruh**, *Citizen Appointee of Governor Phil Scott, Panel Chair*
- 14 • **Lissa Weinmann** (Brattleboro), *citizen appointee of Senate President Pro Tempore Tim Ashe,*  
15 *Panel Vice-Chair*
- 16 • **Corey Daniels**, *ISFSI Senior Manager, NorthStar Vermont Yankee (VY)*
- 17 • **VT State Representative Sara Coffey** (Guilford), *Citizen Appointee of Speaker of the House*  
18 *Mitzi Johnson*
- 19 • **Madeline Arms**, *Representative for the Town of Vernon*
- 20 • **Bob Leach** (Brattleboro), *citizen appointee of Governor Phil Scott*  
21

22 The following VT NDCAP Issues Committee members were absent:

- 23 • **VT State Representative Laura Sibilila**, *Member of the House Committee on Energy &*  
24 *Technology*
- 25 • **Chris Campany**, *Executive Director of the Windham Regional Commission (WRC)*  
26

27 The following VT NDCAP member who is not a member of the Issues Committee was present:

- 28 • **Emily Davis**, *Citizen Appointee of Senate President Pro Tempore Tim Ashe*  
29

30 The following Vermont State Employees were present:

- 31 • **Tony Leshinskie**, *Vermont State Nuclear Engineer (VT Public Service Department), meeting*  
32 *facilitator*
- 33 • **Eric Guzman**, *VT Public Service Department Special Counsel*  
34

35 The following members of the public were present:

- 36 • **Anne Darling**, East Hampton, MA
- 37 • **Sister Joan Brown**, Carlsbad, NM
- 38 • **Karen Bonime**, Albuquerque, NM

1 • **Diane Dorego**, no location provided.

2

3 There were 5 additional phone connections made to the meeting from which no verbal  
4 comments were provided.

5

6 The meeting convened at 6:02 PM.

7

8 **Discussion of Potential September 21, 2020 Panel Meeting Agenda Items:**

9 Tony Leshinskie provided an initial list of likely meeting agenda items for consideration. This list  
10 is available from the VT NDCAP website (<https://publicservice.vermont.gov/electric/ndcap>) in  
11 the “Issue Committee Meeting of June 3, 2020” section.

12

13 The Committee briefly discussed items 1 through 14 on this list. It was recognized that these  
14 comprised the Panel’s typical business items at most meetings, e.g. review and approval of  
15 meeting minutes, updates from NorthStar and the several State Agencies, Questions and  
16 Answers Periods, etc. It was agreed that these items should be included on the September 21  
17 meeting agenda.

18

19 The potential agenda items were reviewed by the Panel members present. Discussion for  
20 several of the items was concurrent since they were related.

21

22 **Discussion of Panel Advisory Opinion Process, a potential Advisory Opinion on a National  
23 Reactor Decommissioning or Spent Fuel Issue and a Presentation by the Spent Nuclear Fuel  
24 Collaborative**

25 Much of this discussion centered on an issue raised by the Panel Vice-Chair, Lissa Weinmann,  
26 regarding whether a letter signed by the 2015 Panel Chair placed VT NDCAP on the record as  
27 supporting Consolidated Interim Storage facilities that have been proposed in New Mexico and  
28 Texas. Lissa expressed concern that the Panel did not vote to approve or reject the letter prior  
29 to its publication.

30

31 Panel Chair Josh Unruh noted that he had requested that the State Nuclear Engineer investigate  
32 the history of this letter further and whether the Panel had taken any action regarding the  
33 letter. This investigation determined that the letter was included as part of the Panel’s 2015  
34 Annual Report. The 2015 Annual Report was unanimously approved by the Panel at its  
35 February 2016 meeting. (The 2015 Annual Report is available in the Panel’s 2015 meetings  
36 archive: <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/content/ndcap-meeting-archives-2015>. The letter in  
37 question is included as Appendix E of the 2015 Annual Report.)

38

1 Discussion continued, with it being noted that only two of the Panel members from 2015  
2 remained on the Panel today. Perhaps a majority of current Panel members no longer  
3 supported the 2015 letter?  
4

5 Josh Unruh indicated that the Panel may not be able to formally take a could a position on  
6 regarding a proposed Interim Storage Facility. In discussing the Advisory Opinion process with  
7 State Nuclear Engineer Tony Leshinskie and Vermont Public Service Department Special  
8 Attorney Eric Guzman, a review of the Panel’s duties in the Legislation establishing VT NDCAP  
9 (18 VSA §§1700-1702) indicates that the Panel is likely unable to take a position on a national  
10 decommissioning issue. All Panel duties described in 18 VSA §§1700-1702 specifically focus on  
11 the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station. Eric Guzman added that the Public Service  
12 Department could investigate further on whether the Panel can comment on topics not directly  
13 related to the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station.  
14

15 Discussion continued on whether an interim storage facility was a topic directly related to  
16 Vermont Yankee’s decommissioning. Josh Unruh reminded the committed that the Panel had  
17 voted down a proposal to draft an Advisory Opinion on interim spent fuel storage. After  
18 considerable additional discussion on this topic, the Committee agreed that an Advisory  
19 Opinion should not be pursued at this time. However, the Panel needed more information on  
20 the current state of US spent nuclear fuel policy. Accordingly, the Committee recommended  
21 that the September Panel meeting include a presentation on this subject. The Committee  
22 agreed to contact Jim Hamilton from the Spent Nuclear Fuel Collaborative to speak on this  
23 subject. Congressional Delegation or US Department of Energy representatives could also be  
24 contacted if Jim Hamilton is unavailable.  
25

#### 26 **Status Report on VT NDCAP Legislation**

27 The Committee agreed that the Panel’s Legislative members (Laura Sibilina and / or Sara Coffey)  
28 should provide a brief summary at the September Panel meeting regarding the bill before the  
29 Legislature that would reorganize the Panel and its administration based on recommendations  
30 approved at the Panel’s January and February meetings.  
31

#### 32 **Federal Legislation Status Report from Congressional Delegation Staff and Discussion(s) on 33 specific Congressional Decommissioning / Spent Fuel Proposals**

34 The Committee agreed that representatives from Vermont’s Congressional Delegation should  
35 discuss the several spent nuclear fuel-related bills currently before Congress at the September  
36 Panel meeting.  
37  
38

1 **Report from Texas-Vermont Low Level Radioactive Waste Compact Commission**

2 At the request of several Committee members, Tony Leshinskie briefly outlined this potential  
3 agenda item. The Compact Commission oversees the operation of the Andrews County, TX low  
4 level radioactive waste facility (operated by Waste Control Specialists) where essentially all  
5 radioactive waste generated in Vermont is shipped. The item is a carry-over from prior Issues  
6 Committee meetings, where several Committee members have expressed interest in learning  
7 more about the facility. The Compact Commission last made a presentation to the Panel in  
8 June 2018.

9  
10 After a short discussion, the Committee agreed to defer a Compact Commission presentation to  
11 a subsequent Panel Meeting.

12  
13 **2020 Panel Annual Report**

14 Tony Leshinskie noted that to what extent the Panel’s Annual Report needs to be discussed at  
15 the September Panel meeting will depend on when the Panel intends to meet next following  
16 the September meeting. If no additional meetings are expected in 2020, a first draft of the  
17 Annual Report is likely needed. If the Panel plans on meeting at least once more in 2020, an  
18 outline for the Report should be discussed.

19  
20 Josh Unruh recommended that the Panel should plan on meeting once more in 2020. The  
21 Committee agreed. Accordingly, an outline for the 2020 Annual Report will be discussed at the  
22 September 2020 Panel meeting.

23  
24 **Panel Chair / Vice-Chair Election for 2021**

25 It was agreed that the Panel could hold elections at its last 2020 meeting, once that date is set,  
26 rather than at the September 2020 meeting.

27  
28 **Summary of September 21, 2020 Panel Agenda Items**

29 Based on the Committee’s discussions, the following items will be included in the  
30 September 21, 2020 meeting agenda:

- 31
- 32 1. Welcome, Opening Remarks & Overview of Meeting Agenda; Amendments to Agenda (5
  - 33 minutes)
  - 34 2. Introduction of Panelists
  - 35 3. Review & Approval of May 4, 2020 Meeting Minutes
  - 36 4. NorthStar update on VT Yankee activities
  - 37 5. State Agencies’ Updates
  - 38 6. Panel Questions & Answers on NorthStar & State Agencies Reports
  - 39 7. Public Questions & Answers on NorthStar & State Agencies Reports

- 1 8. Early Public Comments Period
- 2 9. Spent Nuclear Fuel Collaborative Presentation
- 3 10. Congressional Delegation Update of Spent Fuel Bills Before Congress
- 4 11. 2020 Panel Annual Report Outline
- 5 12. Scheduling Remaining 2020 and Early 2021 Panel Meetings
- 6 13. General Public Comments Period

7

8 **Public Comments**

9 Comments from several members of the public were received throughout the meeting. These  
10 comments are summarized below.

11

12 **Sister Joan Brown** (Carlsbad, NM) urged VT NDCAP to oppose Holtec’s proposed Consolidated  
13 Spent Nuclear Fuel Nuclear storage facility (which would be constructed near Carlsbad, NM).  
14 She noted that the State of New Mexico opposes the facility and that the state does not benefit  
15 from nuclear power because there are no nuclear power plants in-state. She believes that  
16 nuclear waste should be kept at or near the power plants that generated them.

17

18 **Karen Bonime** (Albuquerque, NM) also asked the Issues Committee to oppose Holtec’s  
19 proposed Consolidated Spent Nuclear Fuel Nuclear storage facility. She added that a public  
20 comment period was currently open for the NRC’s Environmental Impact Statement for the  
21 facility, which provides opportunity to voice opposition to the facility.

22

23 **Anne Darling** (East Hampton, MA) indicated that she had attempted to ask a question earlier in  
24 the meeting, but her line remained muted. She had difficulty getting Tony Leshinskie’s  
25 attention to ask her question. She requested that the technology used to conduct these  
26 meetings be improved to allow easier public participation.

27

28 **Diane Dorego** (no location provided) notified the Issues Committee that the NRC currently has  
29 a proposal out that would allow disposal of radioactive waste in “regular” waste dumps (e.g.  
30 municipal waste facilities). VT NDCAP should oppose this proposal.

31

32 **Other Business**

33 In response to Karen Bonime’s comments, Panel Member Bob Leach indicated that he was  
34 willing to submit comments to the NRC opposing Holtec’s proposed Consolidated Spent Nuclear  
35 Fuel Nuclear storage facility. Bob authorized Tony Leshinskie to forward his (i.e. Bob’s) contact  
36 information to Ms. Bonime to discuss this matter further.

37

38 **Adjournment**

39 The meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.