

1 **Approved 03.22.2018**

2 **Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel (NDCAP)**

3 **Thursday, October 26, 2017**

4 **Brattleboro Area Middle School – Multipurpose Room- 109 Sunny Acres, Brattleboro, VT**  
5 **Meeting Minutes**

6  
7 NDCAP Members Present:

- 8 • Jack Boyle, Decommissioning Director, Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee (VY)
- 9 • Mike McKenney, Technical Coordinator, Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee (VY)
- 10 • Derrick Jordan (Putney), citizen appointee of VT Speaker of the House Mitzi Johnson
- 11 • Lissa Weinmann (Brattleboro), Citizen appointee of VT State President Pro Tempore Tim  
12 Ashe
- 13 • Stephen Skibniowsky, representing the Town of Vernon, VT
- 14 • Katie Buckley, Commissioner, Department of Housing and Community Affairs  
15 (representing the Agency of Commerce and Community Development)
- 16 • June Tierney, Commissioner of Public Service Department
- 17 • Kate O'Connor (Brattleboro), Chair, citizen appointee of (former) Governor Peter  
18 Shumlin
- 19 • Martin Langeveld, Vice Chair (Vernon), citizen appointee of Governor Phil Scott
- 20 • Peter Walke, Deputy Secretary, Agency of Natural Resources
- 21 • Jim Matteau (Westminster), citizen appointee of (former) Senate President Pro Tempore  
22 John Campbell
- 23 • David Andrews, International Brotherhood of Electric Workers (IBEW); representing  
24 present & former employees of Vermont Yankee
- 25 • VT Representative Laura Sibilila, member of the House Committee on Energy and  
26 Technology, appointed by Speaker of the House Mitzi Johnson
- 27 • David Deen, (Westminster), VT State Representative, citizen appointee of (former)  
28 Speaker of the House Shap Smith
- 29 • Chris Campany, Executive Director of the Windham Regional Commission (WRC)
- 30 • VT State Senator Mark MacDonald, member of the Senate Committee on Natural  
31 Resources and Energy

32  
33 The following NDCAP members were connected to the meeting via teleconference:

- 34  
35 • Robert Gustafson, Assistant Planning Chief, Radiological Emergency Preparedness, New  
36 Hampshire Emergency Management and Homeland Security (NH HSEM), representing  
37 the Towns of Chesterfield, Hinsdale, Richmond, Swanzey, and Winchester, NH, interim  
38 appointee of the NH Governor's Office
  
- 39 • Dr. William Irwin, designee for the Secretary of the Agency of Human Services

40 The following NDCAP members were absent from the meeting:

- 1 • Massachusetts State Representative Paul W. Mark (Peru, MA), representing the Towns  
2 of Bernardston, Colrain, Gill, Greenfield, Leyden, Northfield, and Warwick,  
3 Massachusetts, appointee of (former) MA Governor Deval Patrick

4 Meeting called to order at 6:02 pm; A video recording of the meeting is available online at  
5 <http://publicservice.vermont.gov/electric/ndcap> and at  
6 [https://www.brattleborotv.org/vt-nuclear-decommissioning-citizens-advisory-panel/vt-ndcap-](https://www.brattleborotv.org/vt-nuclear-decommissioning-citizens-advisory-panel/vt-ndcap-102617-mtg)  
7 102617-mtg.

8  
9 **INTRODUCTION OF THE PANELISTS AND OVERVIEW OF THE AGENDA:**

10 The Panel introduced themselves and the Chair gave an overview of the agenda.

11 *The Chair's introduction begins at 00 hours, 00 minutes & 01 seconds, 00:00:01, into the*  
12 *meeting recording. Individual Panelist introductions begin at 00:00:29 into the meeting*  
13 *recording. Overview of the meeting agenda begins at 00:02:31 on the meeting recording.*

14  
15 **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Approval of September 28, 2017 minutes. *Approval of the*  
16 *September 28 meeting minutes begins at 00:03:10 on the meeting recording.*

17  
18 Robert Gustafson noted that his name and title should be moved from the “Members Present”  
19 list to the “Members Absent” list. He also noted that he was not appointed by NH Governor  
20 Chris Sununu, but by his boss, Perry Plummer, Director of NH HSEM and that he is covering for  
21 Diane Becker, who has retired from NH HSEM. He has been assured that his appointment from  
22 the New Hampshire Governor’s Office can be obtained if deemed necessary.

23  
24 Page 2, line 19 “tanker” not “takard”

25 Page 3, line 27 “the state of Vermont” (not Scott State)

26 Page 5, line 13 “aggregate” not “arrogate”

27 Page 7, line 10 “mrem” not “mg”

28 Page 9, line 13 “graded” not “grated”

29 Page 9, line 17 “graded” not “grated”

30 Page 9, line 31 insert “from Chuck Schwer” after the word “Question”

31 Page 12, line 7 “stake” not “state”

32  
33 Motion to approve the minutes as corrected (*at 00:07:27 on the meeting recording*) passed  
34 with no “nays” or abstentions heard.

35  
36 **Entergy Update on Decommissioning Activities at VY:** Joe Lynch, Government Affairs  
37 Manager, Entergy Vermont Yankee, gave an update on recent activities. The presentation  
38 slides for this update are available online at <http://publicservice.vermont.gov/electric/ndcap>  
39 and <http://vydecommissioning.com/ndcap/>. *This presentation begins at 00:07:54 on the*  
40 *meeting recording.*

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42

1 **State of Vermont Update on VY Decommissioning Activities:** Steph Hoffman, Special Counsel  
2 in the VT Public Service Department, provided a verbal update on recent State of Vermont  
3 activities related to Vermont Yankee’s Decommissioning. This update summarized the status of  
4 proposed Vermont Yankee sale to NorthStar Group Holdings case currently before the Vermont  
5 Public Utilities Commission (PUC). Filings related to this PUC case are available online at  
6 <https://epuc.vermont.gov> (Case #8880). *This presentation begins at 00:18:00 on the meeting*  
7 *recording.*

8  
9 **QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PANEL: On Entergy & State Decommissioning**  
10 **Updates**

11  
12 Several questions to Joe Lynch were asked by Panelists Derrik Jordan and Lissa Weinmann  
13 regarding Joe’s summary of Entergy’s recent efforts to address groundwater intrusions at the  
14 Vermont Yankee site. *These questions begin at 00:22:49 on the meeting recording.*

15  
16 Additional questions to Joe Lynch were asked by Panelists Lissa Weinmann and David Deen  
17 regarding other portions of Joe’s presentation. *These questions begin at 00:26:48 on the*  
18 *meeting recording.*

19  
20 Questions for Steph Hoffman and Joe Lynch were asked by Panelists Lissa Weinmann, Peter  
21 Walke and Chris Company. *These questions begin at 00:28:10 on the meeting recording.*

22  
23 **On Technical Assistance for Brownfields Review of Non-Radiological Site Restoration Proposal**

24 Kate O’Connor briefly outlined how NDCAP made contact with the New Jersey Institute of  
25 Technology and subsequently GEI Consultants to learn more about brownfields and non-  
26 radiological site restorations. Additionally, Susan McMahan, Associate Director of the  
27 Windham Regional Commission, was asked to define brownfields for the Panel. Brownfields  
28 were described as “Land and buildings whose expansion redevelopment or reuse may be  
29 complicated by the presence or potential presence of hazardous substance, pollutant or  
30 contaminant.” *This overview begins at 00:31:25 on the meeting recording.*

31  
32 Andrea Poinsett, Project Professional at GEI Consultants, and Sue Boyle, Senior Consultant at  
33 GEI Consultants, provided a verbal summary of a review they performed of the Vermont Yankee  
34 proposed decommissioning and site restoration scenario documentation they had received on  
35 behalf of the Panel. The summary also outlined typical steps in a site restoration effort. *This*  
36 *overview begins at 00:36:25 on the meeting recording.*

37  
38 There are typically 5 basic steps before clean-up resulting either in a No Further Action  
39 Designation or a Clean Up Complete Designation. The five phases consist of an Environmental  
40 Site Assessment, a Site Investigation, a Remedial Investigation (aka a Corrective Action Plan in  
41 Vermont), Remediation, and Redevelopment.

1 **QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PANEL: On Technical Assistance for Brownfields**  
2 **Review**

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4 Questions for Andrea Poinsett and Sue Boyle were asked by Panelists Kate O'Connor, Jack  
5 Boyle, Mark MacDonald, Lissa Weinmann, Derrik Jordan, David Andrews and Stephen  
6 Skibniowsky. Additional discussion between Panelists Kate O'Connor, Mark MacDonald, Peter  
7 Walke, Chris Company, June Tierney and Bill Irwin also ensued. *These questions and exchanges*  
8 *begin at 00:51:52 on the meeting recording.*  
9

10 **QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: On Technical Assistance for Brownfields**  
11 **Review**

12 *Public comments begin at 01:25:35 on the meeting recording.*  
13

14 Comment from Deb Katz, Citizen's Awareness Network: Before 1996, the decommissioning of  
15 nuclear reactors was covered by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Because of  
16 that, NRC worked directly with the EPA directly through decommissioning, working on both  
17 radiological and non-radiological issues. This has changed with the NRC taking over oversight of  
18 all decommissioning actions, leaving the EPA to deal with ground water contamination. The  
19 major issues in contaminations (at plants such as Connecticut Yankee and Yankee Rowe) were  
20 PCB, TCE, lead and asbestos. As far as Deb knows, Yankee Rowe still cannot be released  
21 because of PCB contamination. The work done regarding chemical contamination issues took  
22 place after radiological contamination issues were dealt with. The NRC has control of this,  
23 which made it difficult for the DEP in Massachusetts and Connecticut to get needed information  
24 in terms of non-radiological contamination.  
25

26 Comment from Bob Leach (Brattleboro): After reviewing almost the same document that Susan  
27 and Andrea (GEI Consultants) did, ANR came up with very similar recommendations for  
28 NorthStar. NorthStar has hired a company called Haley and Aldrich to conduct all of the tests  
29 the State of Vermont has requested.  
30

31 Comment from John Tutthill (New Hampshire): Andrea (GEI Consultants) mentioned waste  
32 substances leaving the site needed to be delineated. Have standards changed since 2001 for  
33 the demarcation line for non-radiological material vs. radiological waste. Also, what exactly do  
34 we refer to when we say substances are leaving the site? Sue Boyle (GEI Consultants) response:  
35 A site is not just shaped by the property's boundaries. It is emanating on to adjoining  
36 properties and would need to be remediated there as well. We were not talking about the  
37 transportation of material offsite but rather the natural movement of materials off the site  
38 through media (i.e. soil and groundwater).  
39

40 At the end of this Q&A period Kate O'Connor thanked and acknowledged the guests from GEI.  
41  
42

1 **OVERVIEW OF FILINGS: By Intervenors in Public Utility Commission Docket 8880 (Certificate**  
2 **of Public Good (CPG) Entergy Vermont Yankee License Transfer to NorthStar)**

3  
4 Representatives for several of the Intervenors briefly summarized their positions / concerns in  
5 the Docket 8880 CPG case:

6 Rich Holschuh, Elnu Abenaki Tribe,  
7 Clay Turnbull, New England Coalition (NEC),  
8 Bob Spencer, Town of Vernon Planning & Economic Development Commission, Chris  
9 Company, Windham Regional Commission (WRC)

10  
11 *The Intervenors' presentations begin at 01:31:50 on the meeting recording.*

12  
13 Rich Holschuh (Elnu Abenakis) provided a verbal summary:

14 The major concern is the protection of the land itself. The Abenaki people were unable to  
15 speak up until about 20 years ago as Vermont only recently recognized its natives. Because of  
16 that, there was never a study done to prove that there was a burial site (on or near the  
17 Vermont Yankee site). The damage is done, but, going forward, actions should be taken in a  
18 circumspect manner. We think our concerns are reasonable and would like to have them  
19 addressed. Scott State (NorthStar CEO) has already agreed to this.

20  
21 Clay Turnbull (NEC) provided a PowerPoint presentation and verbal comments. The  
22 presentation can be viewed at <http://publicservice.vermont.gov/electric/ndcap>. *Clay's*  
23 *presentation begins at 01:37:37 on the meeting recording.*

24 NEC is interested in how the (VY sale) proposal can be improved, both in terms of timing and  
25 quality of the decommissioning. Our options are to return the land to the quality it was before  
26 VY or leave the land as an orphaned industrial site. We believe that VY should follow the  
27 examples of Maine Yankee, Connecticut Yankee and Yankee Rowe and adopt site restoration  
28 standards of 10 millirem (per year) from all pathways and 4 millirem (per year). In looking at  
29 other sites, the currently proposed VY standards are not as good. VY standards should be at  
30 least as clean as other New England (decommissioned reactor) sites. We believe the land  
31 should be left as a nature preserve with no commercial, industrial or residential use. The Maine  
32 and Connecticut Yankee nature preserves, found deep pockets of contamination on land which  
33 raised the decontamination cost significantly. NorthStar should be required to have a \$200  
34 million performance bond to assure complete radiological and non-radiological cleanup of the  
35 site. The site has Native American cultural, ceremonial and ancestral significance. If over a  
36 million cubic feet of (rubblized) debris is to be buried onsite, NorthStar should be required to  
37 get a permit governing solid waste disposal.

38  
39 Bob Spencer (Vernon Planning & Economic Development Commission) provided a verbal  
40 summary. *Bob's presentation begins at 01:41:39 on the meeting recording.*

41 Our main point this evening is to clarify and amend the Town of Vernon's testimony to the PUC.  
42 A meeting was held last night (10/25/17) that clarified our testimony. There's been confusion  
43 around terminology about restricted use, residential use and greenfield. Our testimony uses  
44 the term "Unrestricted Residential," meaning that the site should be remediated without

1 limitation for all relevant or appropriate Vermont cleanup standards. Were any other  
2 standards to be used for any portion of the site, the Town would want input on which portions  
3 of the site were best suited for these standards to assure consistency with the Town Plan. Note  
4 also that since 2014 the intent of the Town Plan is to explore the industrial reuse of the VY site.  
5 We do not expect any residential use of the site.  
6

7 The Town has also investigated the proposed clean-up standards for the site. A report  
8 prepared by Bob Leach (Vernon's Technical Expert in the PUC case) concluded that rubbleization  
9 is safe and has environmental advantages to the town provided that the rubble is clean and  
10 meets the (site restoration) standards. *(Bob Leach's report is available online at*  
11 *<https://epuc.vermont.gov> (Case #8880)).*  
12

13 We would like to develop a new town plan with help from Windham Regional Commission that  
14 pursues redevelopment of the site, allowing it to continue to generate tax base and jobs.  
15 Multiple uses for the land, including education, river front access, historical acknowledgement  
16 of the site, a place accessible to children, etc. will be considered.  
17

18 Chris Campany (WRC) provided a verbal summary. *Chris' presentation begins at 01:48:20 on*  
19 *the meeting recording.*

20 WRC has advocated for immediate decommissioning in previous VY-related dockets to assure  
21 the best use of the Decommissioning Trust Fund and to retain as many of the "VY legacy"  
22 employees during decommissioning. The main questions that WRC is looking at in the docket  
23 are the implications for the site restoration standards for redevelopment, the basis for  
24 decommissioning and site restoration cost assumptions including the completeness of the site  
25 characterizations, the financial capacity of NorthStar to complete the decommissioning and site  
26 restoration, and related financial guarantees, and finally what are the implications if the funds  
27 are expended and decommissioning and site restoration are not complete due to unforeseen  
28 circumstances. Some of the brown sites we talk about today were developed for industrial use  
29 well over 100 years ago. Our decisions will affect many generations from now.  
30

### 31 **QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PANEL: For Interveners in Docket 8880**

32 *Panelists questions to the Interveners and related exchanges begin at 01:51:48 on the meeting*  
33 *recording.*  
34

35 Panelist David Andrews directed a question to Clay Turnbull regarding NEC's proposed  
36 radiological cleanup standards.  
37

38 A second question by David Andrews to Rich Holschuh regarding previous historical site use  
39 investigations for the VY land prompted a discussion of State requirements for site historic  
40 investigations. Panelist Katie Buckley (Department of Housing and Community Affairs  
41 Commissioner) provided background on historic investigations by the Department of Historic  
42 Preservation and noted that relevant comments were recently filed by the State Historic  
43 Preservation Officer. (Chair Kate O'Connor noted that perhaps David Andrew's question should  
44 be addressed to State Historic Preservation Officer.) Panelist June Tierney (Public Service

1 Commissioner) also noted that since Docket 8880 was a section 248 proceeding, the  
2 archeological standard will be applied by the PUC. The discussion also prompted a comment  
3 from Panelist David Deen regarding the likely federal government action regarding a federal  
4 investigation for a site with potential historic impact. This resulted in additional Panel  
5 discussion between David Deen, June Tierney, Chris Company and Jim Matteau.  
6

7 Panelist Lissa Weinmann directed several questions to Bob Spencer regarding the amount  
8 necessary to securely store the spent fuel canister (aka dry casks) at the VY site. The questions  
9 and their initial replies prompted discussion between Lissa, Bob, Panelist Mike McKenney  
10 (Entergy), Panelist Chris Company (WRC) and an additional comment from Clay Turnbull (NEC).  
11 *These questions and the related exchanges begin at 02:09:53 on the meeting recording.*  
12

13 At the conclusion discussion (*at ~02:17:41 on the meeting recording*), Panel Chair Kate  
14 O'Connor noted that further discussion on the VY available space and the space required for  
15 onsite spent fuel storage will be held at a future meeting. Kate thanked Bob Spencer, Clay  
16 Turnbull and Rich Holschuh for their participation in the meeting.  
17

### 18 **Meeting Schedule for 2017 and 2018**

19 *Panel discussion on the future meetings schedule begins at 02:18:12 on the meeting recording.*  
20

21 Kate O'Connor noted that a Panel meeting set for November 16. There is no plan to meet in  
22 December.  
23

24 Lissa Weinmann stated that the Panel had taken a position on Centralized Interim Storage in a  
25 letter on November 27, 2015. NDCAP joined four other communities when calling for this.  
26 Centralized Interim Storage means that eventually, all the casks will be moved out somewhere  
27 off site to a centralized facility rather than what the federal law now dictates which is a  
28 Centralized Geologic Storage Facility. She does not remember hearing anything about the  
29 merits of Centralized Interim Storage vs. long term Geologic Storage vs. onsite storage in past  
30 meetings. This is a big issue that requires a change in federal law, and in my research, there are  
31 quite a lot of complications to Centralized Interim Storage. Let's discuss Centralized Interim  
32 Storage since most people will want the radiological material to be gone as soon as possible.  
33 Let's consider discussing this at the November meeting.  
34

35 Additional Panelist discussions ensued on this topic as well as other topics related to the  
36 ongoing Vermont Yankee sale case before the PUC. Further discussion on moving early 2018  
37 meeting dates so as not to conflict with the PUC's Technical Hearings schedule for the Vermont  
38 Yankee sale case also occurred.  
39

40 In response to the discussions on Centralized Interim Storage, Panelist (and Public Service  
41 Commissioner) June Tierney asked State Nuclear Engineer Tony Leshinskie whether he could  
42 discuss details on Centralized Interim Storage and spent fuel transportation plans to such a  
43 facility. Tony indicated that he could and agreed to provide a presentation on these topics at  
44 the November Panel meeting.

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**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*The meeting's final Public Comments session begins at 02:40:20 on the meeting recording.*

Peter Van der Does (Brattleboro): The State Archeologist was called in in the early 1970s to identify bones found in Vernon which were identified as Paleo-Indian. There are also Paleo-Indian carvings under water in Brattleboro (which can be found on Google Images). There would be a huge public outcry if today's graveyards were dug up. I would like to remind you that (the NRC) release (criteria) for industrial use allows for 100 mrem (per year) and release for residential use allows for 25mrem (per year). 100 mrem for industrial use is accepted under the assumption that a worker will only be on site for one shift a day. 25mrem for residential use assumes that one will live there full time. The difference represents about 7 people per 10,000 who would be susceptible to cancer according to the Biological Effects Ionizing Radiation report (BEIR 7). This study is accepted by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Environmental Protection Agency.

**UPDATES, WRAP UP AND ADJOURN:**

Next meeting: November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:55 pm**