

1 **DRAFT of Meeting Minutes (Subject to Approval at next regular Full Panel Meeting)**
2 **Vermont Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel (VT NDCAP)**
3 **Monday, May 13, 2024**
4 **Zoom Webcast**
5 **Meeting Minutes**
6

7 VT NDCAP Members Present (via webcast):

- 8 • **Chris Campany**, *Executive Director of the Windham Regional Commission (WRC), Panel*
9 *Chair for 2024*
- 10 • **Lissa Weinmann** (*Brattleboro*), *Citizen Appointee of former Senate President Pro*
11 *Tempore Becca Balint, Panel Vice-Chair and VT NDCAP Federal Nuclear Waste Policy*
12 *Committee Chair*
- 13 • **June Tierney**, *Public Service Commissioner, ex officio*
- 14 • **Madeline Arms**, *First Representative for the Town of Vernon*
- 15 • **Trish Coppolino**, *Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Waste Management*
16 *and Prevention Division Environmental Program Manager, Designee for the Secretary of*
17 *Natural Resources*
- 18 • **Corey Daniels**, *Senior ISFSI Manager, NorthStar Vermont Yankee*
- 19 • **David Eastman (Ph.D.)**, *Citizen Appointee of Vermont House Speaker Jill Krowinski*
- 20 • **Bill Irwin (Ph.D.)**, *Radiological & Toxicological Sciences Program Chief, Designee for the*
21 *Secretary of Human Services*
- 22 • **Brett Long**, *Deputy Commissioner of Economic Development, Designee for the Secretary*
23 *of Commerce and Community Development (joined at ~6:55 PM)*
- 24 • **David Pearson**, *Vice-President and Regional Manager, NorthStar Group Services*
- 25 • **Marvin Resnikoff (Ph.D.)**, *Citizen Appointee of former Vermont House Speaker Mitzi*
26 *Johnson*

27
28 The following NDCAP members were absent from the meeting:

- 29 • **Todd Amato**, *Second Representative for the Town of Vernon*
- 30 • **Bob Leach**, *Citizen Appointee of Governor Phil Scott*
- 31 • **VT State Senator Mark MacDonald**, *Member of the Vermont Senate Committee on*
32 *Natural Resources and Energy*
- 33 • **VT State Representative Laura Sibilgia**, *Member (and Vice-Chair) of the Vermont House*
34 *Committee on the Environment & Energy*

35
36 There are currently four vacancies on the Panel (two citizen-appointees and the two optional
37 representatives from Massachusetts and New Hampshire, respectively).

38
39 The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM; a recording of the meeting webcast is available online at
40 <http://publicservice.vermont.gov/vermont-nuclear-decommissioning-citizens-advisory-panel-vt-ndcap>
41 and at

1 <https://www.brattleborotv.org/vt-nuclear-decommissioning-citizens-advisory-panel/vt-nuclear-decommissioning-citizens-advisory-panel-5-13-24-mtg/>.

2
3
4 (Following a recent Public Service Department website migration, all NDCAP meeting materials and
5 video recordings previously available online at <http://publicservice.vermont.gov/electric/ndcap> are now
6 also available online at:
7 <http://publicservice.vermont.gov/vermont-nuclear-decommissioning-citizens-advisory-panel-vt-ndcap>.)
8

9 **Welcome, Opening Remarks & Overview of Meeting Agenda:**

10 Panel Chair Chris Company briefly welcomed everyone to the meeting, briefly outlined the meeting
11 agenda, and requested that all attendees mute themselves when not speaking. A Panel Roll call was
12 conducted to confirm a quorum. The Panelists present briefly introduced themselves during the roll call.
13 With 10 Panelists initially connected to the Zoom webcast, a quorum was present (9 Panelists required).
14

15 Approximately 13 members of the public (not including 3 Panel Staff members) connected to the
16 webcast.
17

18 **Amendments to the Meeting Agenda:** A copy of the meeting agenda is available at
19 <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/document/meeting-agenda-05-13-2024>. No changes to the meeting
20 agenda were offered or made.
21

22 **Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes:** *This segment begins at 0:05:45 on the meeting video.*
23 The December 11, 2023 draft meeting minutes were reviewed. Chris Company requested a motion to
24 approve the minutes; Commissioner June Tierney offered the motion with David Eastman seconding.
25 One correction to the minutes was requested by State Nuclear Engineer Tony Leshinskie:
26

- 27 - On Page 9, Line 35, replace “to be Panel Chair for 2024,” with “to be Panel Vice-Chair for 2024,”
28

29 The Panel concurred with this change. The minutes were then unanimously approved (9-0 vote) by yeas
30 and nays with one abstention (Maddy Arms) and one Panelist (Brett Long) not present for this vote.
31

32 **NorthStar Update on VY Site Decommissioning Activities:** *NorthStar’s presentation begins at*
33 *0:07:10 in the meeting video.*

34 Panel Member Corey Daniels, NorthStar Senior ISFSI (spent fuel storage) Manager at Vermont Yankee,
35 presented a summary of recent site decommissioning activities. The slides for this presentation are
36 available at: <http://publicservice.vermont.gov/vermont-nuclear-decommissioning-citizens-advisory-panel-vt-ndcap>
37 in the “Meeting of May 13, 2024” section.
38

39 Corey noted that NorthStar’s priority is to safely do the job right, which will result in the work being
40 done on time. Current site work remains on schedule to complete onsite demolitions in 2026. The
41 Reactor Building (RB) is the only power plant building still standing onsite. With demolition of the
42 Turbine Building (TB) complete, a new RB Entry / Exit location (Checkpoint) was established using sea-
43 land containers located at the building’s northeast corner. Progress on dismantling RB components was
44 described. This includes final clean-out and decontamination of RB Torus basement. Some interior RB
45 walls have been partially demolished to facilitate removal of the remaining interior components and

1 piping. Piping that was imbedded within several RB interior walls is being cut out as part of the
2 preparation for RB demolition. RB demolition is expected to start in Fall 2024. Current removal
3 pathways for piping segments and component scraps were described. Radioactive waste shipment
4 packaging, including grouting efforts (for package stability and particulate control), were shown.
5

6 NorthStar’s on-going construction of an earthen ramp on the south side of the RB was discussed. The
7 ramp will allow heavy equipment to reach the upper levels of the RB exterior. A hole will be punched
8 into the south exterior RB wall. This will facilitate large demolition equipment access to the Reactor
9 Building interior for structural demolition.
10

11 Remediation activities (mostly separation and removal of contaminated soil) to address diesel and
12 heating oil fuel spills in site Areas of Concern (AOCs) #5 and #7A were described. (These spills occurred
13 during VY’s operational lifetime.) To date, no new AOCs have been identified because of VY demolition
14 activities.
15

16 Additional “outdoor” site activities were also discussed, including the ongoing segmentation and
17 disposal of VY’s spare Turbine. The slab for the former radwaste compactor room is being removed.
18 Weekly visual inspections of the onsite rail spur were noted, as was the placement of several new onsite
19 groundwater monitoring wells. Development of the site’s post-decommissioning water monitoring
20 program has begun.
21

22 NorthStar continues to average 4 to 5 radioactive waste shipments per week. As of May 1, 84
23 radioactive waste shipments have occurred this year; 852 shipments have occurred since the start of
24 decommissioning. NorthStar continues to meet regularly with State Agencies to discuss project status.
25

26 **State Agencies’ Updates on VY Decommissioning:**

27 *These presentations begin at 0:27:35 in the meeting video.*
28

29 **Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) / Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC):**

30 Graham Bradley from ANR / DEC Waste Management Division provided this update. The slides for this
31 presentation are available at: [http://publicservice.vermont.gov/vermont-nuclear-decommissioning-](http://publicservice.vermont.gov/vermont-nuclear-decommissioning-citizens-advisory-panel-vt-ndcap)
32 [citizens-advisory-panel-vt-ndcap](http://publicservice.vermont.gov/vermont-nuclear-decommissioning-citizens-advisory-panel-vt-ndcap) in the “Meeting of May 13, 2024” section.
33

34 DEC’s ongoing interactions with VT Yankee were briefly outlined (regular status calls, permit reviews,
35 corrective action plan reviews, and some post-demolition surveys). Sampling programs for non-
36 radiological contaminants continue to show no significant contamination issues at the VY site, nor have
37 any unexpected site contaminations been identified. PFAS contamination has been found adjacent to
38 the site’s leach fields. Sampling in this area so far indicate that the maximum concentration is 50 parts
39 per trillion (ppt); Vermont’s PFAS limit is 20 ppt. Additional sampling will be done this week. Corrective
40 actions, most likely long-term monitoring, will follow. No PFAS contaminations have been found in any
41 of the Areas of Concern (AOCs) being sampled for other contaminants. Progress on remediations for
42 previously identified petroleum contaminations were described. Soil excavation was used to remediate
43 fuel oil leaks in AOC #5. Soil sampling determined that a larger than initially planned excavation area
44 was needed in AOC #5, however, this remediation is now complete. In contrast, a smaller than expected
45 exaction was required to remediate AOC #7A. Soil sampling to confirm that AOC #7A remediation is

1 complete are still being analyzed. Several minor changes to the water monitoring program permits
2 were also described. DEC expects that it will have more issues to discuss at future Panel meetings.

3
4 **Public Service Department (PSD):** *This presentation begins at 0:41:55 in the meeting video.*

5 Eric Guzman, PSD Special Counsel made this presentation. Nick Capik of Four Points Group (FPG), PSD's
6 consultant for overseeing the financial and technical details of VT Yankee's Decommissioning, was also
7 present to provide additional details as needed. The slides for this presentation are available at:
8 <http://publicservice.vermont.gov/vermont-nuclear-decommissioning-citizens-advisory-panel-vt-ndcap>
9 in the "Meeting of May 13, 2024" section.

10
11 PSD's financial and technical oversight role was briefly outlined, which includes receiving updates on
12 work completed versus work remaining and project expenditures versus funds remaining. PSD
13 coordinates with other State Agencies and FPG to assess project status and whether decommissioning
14 trust fund reimbursement requests are consistent with the work completed. PSD also meets with
15 NorthStar regularly to conduct any follow-up necessary on NorthStar's self-reporting. Regular site visits
16 by FPG are conducted to observe completed work. The most recent visit occurred in mid-March. The
17 observed project progress from this visit is expected to be consistent with that described in NorthStar's
18 status reports. Additional FPG site visits will occur throughout the year.

19
20 Expenditure tracking and project progress reports are available from PSD's VY Decommissioning website
21 at:

22
23 <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/public-advocacy/vermont-yankee-decommissioning/>
24

25 Updates on the Decommissioning and Site Restoration Trust Funds were provided. As of April 30, the
26 value of the Nuclear Decommissioning Trust (NDT) is \$94.2 Million while the Site Restoration Trust (SRT)
27 value is \$47.7 Million. The NDT and SRT are invested in US Treasury Bonds. These NDT and SRT values
28 reflect the current worth of these bonds. Several projected NDT and SRT values at bond maturity (based
29 on NDT and SRT values for several recent dates) were provided. If the bonds are held to maturity, as
30 expected, their value will increase to \$96.2 million and \$49.4 million, respectively. While the projected
31 NDT value appears to be short compared to the expected \$98.4 million required to complete
32 decommissioning, there are additional interest earnings on the NDT that have yet to be reported. Based
33 on the annual End of Year reporting statements received on March 30, 2024 and NorthStar's current
34 schedule projections, NorthStar continues to remain on track to complete the project on schedule and
35 within available funding. PSD continues to monitor these fund values and the Financial Assurances
36 available from the NorthStar VY Purchase MOU.

37
38 **Panelist Questions on NorthStar and State Agencies' Reports:** *Panelist questions on these*
39 *presentations begin at 1:57:00 on the meeting video.*

40
41 Panelist Marvin Resnikoff asked about how much tax revenue the State and the Town (i.e., Vernon, VT)
42 would receive while VY's Spent Nuclear Fuel remained onsite. Eric Guzman indicated that he would
43 need to follow-up on that before reply. Commissioner June Tierney added that this issue is addressed in
44 the (VY Decommissioning) MOU, but the Department would look into this. The Town of Vernon may
45 need to be consulted.

1
2 Additionally, Marvin Resnikoff asked how much of the onsite Transformer Yards will remain once VY
3 decommissioning is complete. Panelist Corey Daniels replied that there are 4 different electrical
4 switchyards onsite, all of which are managed by VELCO. All four switchyards will remain onsite once
5 decommissioning is complete.

6
7 Panelist Vice-Chair Lissa Weinmann asked about radiation levels within the Reactor Building (RB)
8 concrete. Is whole body protection required in the Reactor Building. Does the Nuclear Regulatory
9 Commission (NRC) monitor this radiation alongside the Company? Is the concrete Greater-Than-Class C
10 radioactive waste? Corey Daniels replied that the RB concrete is largely inert, but does contain trace
11 levels of tritium. The contamination levels are low enough that the RB concrete could be used as onsite
12 fill but isn't.

13
14 Panelist Bill Irwin added that Vermont Department of Health continues to independently monitor the
15 radiological contamination conditions surround the VY site. While Health does not have an onsite
16 sampling program, samples are collected from immediately offsite locations. This includes monitoring
17 conducted at Vernon Elementary School (across the street from the VY Site) as well as Connecticut River
18 water monitoring upstream and downstream of the VY Site. Results from VY's overall monitoring
19 program are regularly reported to the NRC, which also reviews the implementation of the monitoring
20 program on a regular basis. In a follow-up question, Lissa Weinmann asked how frequently air monitors
21 are checked. Corey Daniels indicated that the air monitors in the RB are run continuously. In
22 subsequent discuss, it was requested that VY's radiological monitoring reports be added to the Panel
23 website. Corey Daniels also added that currently the only whole-body protective suits used onsite are
24 those required for torch-cutting activities.

25
26 Panelist David Eastman briefly asked several questions regarding potential onsite monitoring wells.
27 Graham Bradley indicated addition wells could be added in response to upcoming onsite surveys for
28 hazardous materials. In response to an additional David Eastman question, it was noted that the RB
29 concrete will be shipped to WCS Andrews County, TX radwaste disposal facilities, much like all other VY
30 radwaste.

31
32 Lissa Weinmann asked where VY Site Restoration Trust money would go if any funds were left over. Eric
33 Guzman replied that these would be returned to NorthStar as specified in the MOU. The MOU spells
34 out the various contingency funding sources and funding agreements.

35
36 **Public Questions on NorthStar and State Agencies' Reports:** *Public questions and comments begin*
37 *at 1:10:45 on the meeting video.*

38
39 Ann Darling (Citizens Awareness Network, Easthampton, MA): noted that there are a number of
40 Vermont Yankee radiological monitoring reports available from the NRC website. She
41 requested that these reports be made available on the Panel website. In subsequent
42 discussion, Commissioner June Tierney noted at adding links on the Panel website for reports at
43 the NRC's website should be possible.

44 In response to an additional question from Ann Darling, Corey Daniels confirmed that concrete
45 from VY demolitions is being shipped to WCS Andrews County, Texas disposal facilities.

1
2 **Early General Comments:** *Early public comments begin at 1:13:40 on the meeting video.*

3 Ann Darling (Citizens Awareness Network, Easthampton, MA): commented that NRC sites should
4 consider Climate Change impacts at individual sites. Older flood risk data is still being used to
5 evaluate safety conditions at power plant sites. She asked whether States could look at newer
6 flood risk data faster than the NRC. She also noted that the Yankee Rowe site is fully decommissioned
7 except for the spent nuclear fuel that remains at the site. While currently regarded as safe, the fuel
8 could experience an increased flood risk due to Climate Change effects. Panel Chair Chris Company
9 added that he was aware of a GAO (Congressional General Accounting Office) report that discusses
10 flooding risk changes.

11
12 **Federal Nuclear Waste Policy (FNWP) Committee Update:** *This discussion begins at 1:18:50 on*
13 *the meeting video.*

14 FNWP Committee Chair (and Panel Vice-Chair) Lissa Weinmann provided a verbal summary of the
15 Committee’s most recent meeting, held on March 4. The Committee continues to examine aspects of
16 current and potential Federal nuclear wastes policies. At the March 4 meeting, energy policy staff
17 members from Vermont’s Congressional Delegation (Senator Sanders, Senator Welch, and
18 Congresswoman Balint) discussed several nuclear energy policy-related bills that have been introduced
19 during the current Congressional session. A recording of this discussion is available on the FNWP
20 Committee webpage at:

21
22 [https://publicservice.vermont.gov/public-advocacy/vermont-yankee-decommissioning/vt-ndcap-](https://publicservice.vermont.gov/public-advocacy/vermont-yankee-decommissioning/vt-ndcap-federal-nuclear-waste-policy)
23 [federal-nuclear-waste-policy.](https://publicservice.vermont.gov/public-advocacy/vermont-yankee-decommissioning/vt-ndcap-federal-nuclear-waste-policy)

24
25 The Committee will hold its next meeting on June 17.

26
27 Following this summary, Lissa added the Committee will continue examining several aspects of nuclear
28 waste policies. One possible future subject would be to consider what happens if VY’s spent fuel does
29 not leave site by the currently projected 2052 date. She also noted that she will be attending the
30 Radwaste Summit (a nuclear power industry conference) in early June. She will report observations
31 from the Summit back to the Panel.

32
33 Lissa is also interested in learning more about the tax that had previously been applied to nuclear-
34 generated electricity. This revenue comprises the Federal Nuclear Waste Fund, but its collection was
35 suspended about 10 years ago. Lissa further noted that Federal payments to utilities for storing spent
36 nuclear fuel in lieu of a national repository came from the Federal Judgement Fund, which is derived
37 from taxpayer dollars rather than from the Nuclear Waste Fund. Lissa questioned whether it was
38 appropriate to consider such payments as coming from the Department of Energy.

39
40 Commissioner Tierney noted that it was appropriate to consider Judgement Fund payments as coming
41 from the DOE, since they were Federal funds. The Commission reminded the Committee that it does
42 need to focus issues directly related to Vermont Yankee. Examining national concerns regarding nuclear
43 policies can lead to significant “scope creep” to Committee activities that may not be appropriate.

1 In additional discussion, Lissa asked whether the Panel wanted written summaries of Committee
2 meetings. Several Panelists indicated that the verbal reports that Lissa was providing were adequate.

3
4 **Summary of Meeting with Windham Delegation:** *This discussion begins at 1:27:50 on the meeting*
5 *video.*

6 Chris Campany provided a verbal summary of his meeting with several Windham County Vermont
7 Legislators (aka the Windham County Delegation) to discuss the Panel’s recently published Annual
8 Report. Joining Chris in the meeting were Panelist Corey Daniels and State Nuclear Engineer Tony
9 Leshinskie. Chris note that he had originally requested whether any of the Legislature’s Committees
10 required testimony from the Panel regarding its Annual Report or ongoing VY Decommissioning
11 activities. None was requested. Nonetheless a meeting / webcast session was arranged with six
12 members of the Windham County Delegation to see if they needed any additional details regarding the
13 Annual Report. None of the Delegates had specific concerns or questions on the Annual Report. They
14 did express appreciation for the Panel’s efforts in following VY Decommissioning activities.

15
16 Chris recommended that the Panel approach the Legislature very early in the start of its next session
17 (i.e., in early 2025) with a follow-up request to provide testimony on Panel activities. The Legislature is
18 more open to a broader scope of testimony at the beginning of its biennium.

19
20 **General Public Comments to the Panel:** None.

21
22 **Meeting Wrap-Up:** *This discussion begins at 1:31:05 on the meeting video.*

23 September 23 was reported as the Panel’s next meeting date. A physical meeting space, the Governor
24 Hunt House in Vernon, VT, will be available for this meeting.

25
26 Panelists briefly discussed the availability meeting presentations prior to the start of Panel meetings. A
27 public request received via email has asked that meeting presentations be available several days in
28 advanced for review prior to Panel meetings. Tony Leshinskie noted that posting meeting presentations
29 largely depends on when they are received from the presentation author agencies. It was noted that
30 most presenters must have their presentations approved prior to being made public. There is some
31 unpredictability in approval process timing. The State Agency representatives present agreed that pre-
32 meeting availability for presentations could be improved with some advanced planning. It was agreed
33 that for the next Panel meeting (September 23) efforts would be made to have presentations available 5
34 days in advance for public review. The Panel agreed that this commitment would be discussed again at
35 the next meeting if the usual meeting presenters (i.e., NorthStar, DEC, and PSD) had some reason why
36 the five days in advance deadline could not be met.

37
38 **MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:42 PM.**