

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, September 23, 2024**

4 **Zoom Webcast with Physical Meeting Space at:**

5 **Governor Hunt House**

6 **322 Governor Hunt Road, Vernon, VT 05354**

7 **Meeting Minutes**

8
9 VT NDCAP Members Present (via webcast):

- 10 • **Chris Campany**, *Executive Director of the Windham Regional Commission (WRC), Panel*
11 *Chair for 2024*
- 12 • **Lissa Weinmann** (*Brattleboro*), *Citizen Appointee of former Senate President Pro*
13 *Tempore Becca Balint, Panel Vice-Chair and VT NDCAP Federal Nuclear Waste Policy*
14 *Committee Chair (joined via Zoom at ~6:08 PM)*
- 15 • **June Tierney**, *Public Service Commissioner, ex officio (via Zoom)*
- 16 • **Madeline Arms**, *First Representative for the Town of Vernon*
- 17 • **Corey Daniels**, *Senior ISFSI Manager, NorthStar Vermont Yankee (via Zoom)*
- 18 • **David Eastman (Ph.D.)**, *Citizen Appointee of Vermont House Speaker Jill Krowinski*
- 19 • **Bill Irwin (Ph.D.)**, *Radiological & Toxicological Sciences Program Chief, Designee for the*
20 *Secretary of Human Services (via Zoom)*
- 21 • **Bob Leach**, *Citizen Appointee of Governor Phil Scott*
- 22 • **Brett Long**, *Deputy Commissioner of Economic Development, Designee for the Secretary*
23 *of Commerce and Community Development (via Zoom)*
- 24 • **David Pearson**, *Vice-President and Regional Manager, NorthStar Group Services (via*
25 *Zoom)*

26 The following NDCAP members were absent from the meeting:

- 27 • **Todd Amato**, *Second Representative for the Town of Vernon*
- 28 • **Trish Coppolino**, *Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Waste Management*
29 *and Prevention Division Environmental Program Manager, Designee for the Secretary of*
30 *Natural Resources*
- 31 • **VT State Senator Mark MacDonald**, *Member of the Vermont Senate Committee on*
32 *Natural Resources and Energy*
- 33 • **Marvin Resnikoff (Ph.D.)**, *Citizen Appointee of former Vermont House Speaker Mitzi*
34 *Johnson*
- 35 • **VT State Representative Laura Sibilila**, *Member (and Vice-Chair) of the Vermont House*
36 *Committee on the Environment & Energy*

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

40
41 The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM; a recording of the meeting webcast is available online at:

1 <http://publicservice.vermont.gov/vermont-nuclear-decommissioning-citizens-advisory-panel-vt-ndcap>
2 and at
3 <https://www.brattleborotv.org/vt-nuclear-decommissioning-citizens-advisory-panel/vt-nuclear-decommissioning-citizens-advisory-panel-9-23-24-mtg/>.

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

10
11 **Welcome, Opening Remarks & Overview of Meeting Agenda:**

12 Panel Chair Chris Company briefly welcomed everyone to the meeting, noting that this was the 10th
13 Anniversary of the first VT-NDCAP meeting, which also his being on the Panel for 10 years. A Panel Roll
14 call was conducted to confirm a quorum. With 9 Panelists initially connected either through the Zoom
15 webcast or at the designated meeting space, a quorum was present (9 Panelists required). Once Panel
16 Vice-Chair Lissa Weinmann joined the meeting at ~6:08 PM, 10 of the 15 current Panelists were present.
17 Via chat, Lissa noted that she was unable to speak (laryngitis) but used chat comments throughout the
18 meeting to participate.

19
20 Approximately 11 members of the public (not including 5 Panel Staff members) connected to the
21 webcast. Two (2) members of the public were present at the Governor Hunt House meeting site.

22
23 **Amendments to the Meeting Agenda:** A copy of the meeting agenda is available at
24 <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/document/meeting-agenda-09-23-2024>. No changes to the meeting
25 agenda were offered or made.

26
27 **Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes:** *This segment begins at 0:02:15 on the meeting video.*

28 The May 13, 2024 draft meeting minutes were reviewed. Chris Company requested a motion to approve
29 the minutes; David Eastman offered the motion with Commissioner June Tierney seconding. No
30 changes to the minutes draft were requested.

31
32 The minutes were then unanimously approved (10-0 vote) by yeas and nays with no abstentions. Lissa
33 Weinmann’s “yea” vote was received via Zoom chat.

34
35 **NorthStar Update on VY Site Decommissioning Activities:** *NorthStar’s presentation begins at*
36 *0:08:45 in the meeting video.*

37 Panel Member Corey Daniels, NorthStar Senior ISFSI (spent fuel storage) Manager at Vermont Yankee,
38 presented a summary of recent site decommissioning activities. The slides for this presentation are
39 available at: <http://publicservice.vermont.gov/vermont-nuclear-decommissioning-citizens-advisory-panel-vt-ndcap>
40 in the “Meeting of September 23, 2024” section.

41
42 Corey noted that NorthStar’s priority is to safely do the job right, which will result in the work being
43 done on time. NorthStar continues VY decommissioning work without an OSHA Recordable Lost Time
44 Accident since starting active decommissioning in January 2019. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission
45 (NRC) has issued no cited violations at VY during this time. Current site work remains on schedule to

1 complete onsite demolitions in 2026. The Reactor Building (RB) is the only power plant building still
2 standing onsite. Progress on removing the remaining RB components was described. This includes
3 removing the Reactor Vessel Refueling Bellows, the Reactor Recirculating Water System Pumps and
4 associated piping, and the Radwaste Clean-Up System Heat Exchangers. Piping and components
5 removal continues in the RB Drywell. Current removal pathways for piping segments and component
6 scraps were described. Radioactive waste shipment packaging, including grouting efforts (for package
7 stability and particulate control), were shown.
8

9 Work within the RB is transitioning to final decontamination of emptied RB spaces in preparation for
10 free releasing the building for its upcoming demolition. As part of decontamination effort, the Spent
11 Fuel Pool (SFP) walls and floor have been sandblasted. Preparations for conducting sandblasting /
12 decontamination in the Dryer-Separator Pit (DSP) are underway. Final cleaning in the Torus area and on
13 various RB levels were shown.
14

15 Construction of an earthen ramp on the south side of the RB continues. The ramp will allow heavy
16 equipment to reach the upper levels of the RB exterior and facilitate RB structural demolition.
17

18 Backfilling in AOCs #5 and #7 have completed. To date, no new AOCs have been identified because of
19 VY demolition activities. Excavations to remove piping at the Cooling Towers Spray Pond were
20 conducted; the affected areas have been backfilled. Cofferdam construction to support preliminary
21 demolition at the River Discharge Structure has begun.
22

23 Several new onsite groundwater monitoring wells have been installed based on ANR feedback.
24 Development of the site's post-decommissioning water monitoring program continues with ANR input.
25

26 Radioactive waste shipment packaging was discussed. NorthStar is averaging 4 to 5 radioactive waste
27 shipments per week. As of September 16, 151 radioactive waste shipments have occurred this year; 920
28 shipments have occurred since decommissioning started in January 2019.
29

30 **State Agencies' Updates on VY Decommissioning:**

31 *These presentations begin at 0:32:02 in the meeting video.*
32

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

34 Graham Bradley from ANR / DEC Waste Management Division provided this update. The slides for this
35 presentation are available at: [http://publicservice.vermont.gov/vermont-nuclear-decommissioning-](http://publicservice.vermont.gov/vermont-nuclear-decommissioning-citizens-advisory-panel-vt-ndcap)
36 [citizens-advisory-panel-vt-ndcap](http://publicservice.vermont.gov/vermont-nuclear-decommissioning-citizens-advisory-panel-vt-ndcap) in the "Meeting of September 23, 2024" section.
37

38 DEC's ongoing interactions with VT Yankee were briefly outlined (regular status calls, permit reviews,
39 corrective action plan reviews, and some post-demolition surveys). These interactions have continued
40 since the last presentation to VT-NDCAP. Sampling programs for non-radiological contaminants
41 continue; no unexpected site contaminations have been identified thus far. ANR/DEC continues to work
42 closely with NorthStar's remediation contractor, Haley & Aldrich, and DEC's consultant, Atlas, on plans
43 for addressing potential contaminant issues at VY's previously identified Areas of Concern (AOCs). DEC
44 continues to monitor onsite PFAS contaminations. PFAS levels of up to 50 parts per trillion have been
45 observed, particularly in onsite leach fields, which exceed DEC's 20 parts per trillion limit. The observed

1 PFAS levels are similar to those seen at other industrial sites within Vermont. Long-term monitoring and
2 restrictions on any new onsite drinking water wells will likely be needed to address.

3
4 Remediation (mostly soil removal) to known fuel oil leaks onsite were discussed. Remediation at AOCs
5 #5 and #7 are complete. Contaminant surveys at AOC #6 (Radwaste Building Compactor Room) and
6 AOC #11 (South Warehouse Area) have been conducted following removal of their concrete slabs. No
7 significant contaminants have been found.

8
9 **Public Service Department (PSD):** *This presentation begins at 0:48:25 in the meeting video.*

10 PSD Special Counsel Caroline Daniels outlined PSD’s fiscal oversight of the VY Decommissioning project
11 required by the MOU in effect as part of NorthStar’s purchase of VY. Nick Capik of Four Points Group
12 (FPG), PSD’s consultants for overseeing the project, was also present to provide additional information,
13 as needed. The slides for this presentation are available at: [http://publicservice.vermont.gov/vermont-](http://publicservice.vermont.gov/vermont-nuclear-decommissioning-citizens-advisory-panel-vt-ndcap)
14 [nuclear-decommissioning-citizens-advisory-panel-vt-ndcap](http://publicservice.vermont.gov/vermont-nuclear-decommissioning-citizens-advisory-panel-vt-ndcap) in the “Meeting of September 23, 2024”
15 section.

16
17 PSD’s oversight includes receiving updates on work completed versus work remaining and project
18 expenditures versus funds remaining. PSD coordinates with other State Agencies and FPG to assess
19 project status and whether Nuclear Decommissioning Trust (NDT) reimbursement requests are
20 consistent with the work completed. PSD also meets with NorthStar regularly to conduct any follow-up
21 necessary on NorthStar’s self-reporting. Regular site visits by FPG are conducted to observe completed
22 work. The most recent visit occurred in early July. These visits continue to show observed project
23 progress that is consistent with that described in NorthStar’s status reports.

24
25 Updates on the Decommissioning and Site Restoration Trust Funds were provided. Expenditure tracking
26 and project progress reports are available from PSD’s VY Decommissioning website at:

27
28 <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/public-advocacy/vermont-yankee-decommissioning/>
29

30 As of August 31, the projected cost to complete Decommissioning and License Termination is \$81.1
31 million, but the current value of the NDT is \$76.3 Million. The NDT is invested in US Treasury Bonds.
32 The NDT value reflects the current worth of these bonds. If the bonds are held to maturity, as expected,
33 their value is expected to increase to \$77.1 million. However, this does not include NDT interest
34 earnings. Considering the additional \$55 million available via the Financial Assurance Escrow and the
35 \$140 million Support Agreement established in the NorthStar VY Purchase MOU, PSD assessments
36 continue to show that the NDT and other available funding will be sufficient to cover the current costs of
37 VY decommissioning. PSD continues to monitor VY funding values. Based on NorthStar’s most recent
38 monthly reports, NorthStar continues to remain on track to complete the project on schedule and within
39 available funding.

40
41 **Additional State Agency Reports:** *(at 1:01:05 on meeting video);* Panelist Bill Irwin indicated that
42 Vermont Department of Health had no report at this time.

43
44 **Panelist Questions on NorthStar and State Agencies’ Reports:** *Panelist questions on these*
45 *presentations begin at 1:01:20 on the meeting video.*
46

1 Panelist David Eastman asked several questions regarding PFAS and hazmat monitoring at VY. Graham
2 Bradley emphasized that these monitoring programs were still evolving for long-term monitoring.
3 Additional monitoring wells will be added and additional sampling will be done as needs are identified.
4 It was noted that Vermont's PFAS contamination limits are quite low. Essentially, if PFAS is detectable, it
5 must be remediated.

6
7 Panel Vice-Chair Lissa Weinmann asked (through chat messages) how exposures are monitored onsite.
8 Corey Daniels briefly described the personnel monitoring required for anyone within demolition zones
9 onsite. He also noted that air sampling is conducted on a continuous basis within the RB. Air filters
10 within the RB are regularly changed. One of the ways that exposures are controlled is by using the
11 proper staffing for specific jobs. For example, in the recent sandblasting work, NorthStar brought in its
12 own specialists for the work, all of whom wore the proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the
13 job and are good at what they do. NorthStar does not subcontract critical project work.

14
15 **Public Questions on NorthStar and State Agencies' Reports:** *Public questions and comments begin*
16 *at 1:14:15 on the meeting video.*

17
18 Schuyler Gould (Citizens Awareness Network, Brattleboro, VT) asked for a clarification on what grout is,
19 since it gets mentioned a lot in radioactive waste packaging discussions. Corey Daniels replied that
20 grout is a low-density concrete that is added to many of VY's radwaste shipments that helps assure that
21 package contents do not shift during transportation.

22
23 In response to an additional public question, Panelist Bill Irwin briefly described Vermont Department of
24 Health's radiological monitoring program at VY. He emphasized that Health does not have an onsite
25 monitoring program. However, the area surrounding the VY site is monitored through several means.
26 Several monitoring points are set along VY's fence line. These points hold TLDs (Thermo-Luminescent
27 Detectors) that are routinely processed to assess radiological dose at the monitoring locations.
28 Additionally, there are water and air sampling stations surrounding the VY site. One of the air sampling
29 stations is located at Vernon Elementary School, which is across the street from VY's Main Entrance.

30
31 **Early General Comments:** *Early public comments begin at 1:22:25 on the meeting video.*

32 Ann Darling (Citizens Awareness Network, Easthampton, MA): expressed thanks to State Nuclear
33 Engineer Tony Leshinskie for his assistance in locating several of VY's annual radioactive waste volume
34 reports.

35
36 With prior consent from Panel Chair Chris Campany, Jasper Gilardi introduced himself as a
37 representative of the Good Energy Collective. The Collective is one of thirteen DOE funding awardees in
38 the Spent Nuclear Fuel Repository Consent-Based Spent Siting Development program. The Collective
39 has chosen the VY area as one of several communities it will survey to identify the range of public
40 perceptions regarding nuclear power plant operations and public relations, plant decommissioning, and
41 the likelihood of Spent Nuclear Fuel remaining in the community for the next several decades. The
42 Collective hopes to interview approximately 40 to 50 area residents for this survey. Volunteers are
43 invited to attend survey workshop sessions which will be held on October 20, 21, and 22 at the Governor
44 Hunt House in Vernon.

45
46 Dr. Thomas Webler (Turners Falls, MA) introduced himself as a representative of the Social &
47 Environmental Research Institute, another DOE Consent-Based Siting Development program awardee,

1 who will be gathering information from the VY area. His information-gathering effort is separate from
2 Good Energy Collective’s workshops. He will also be working with communities near the Connecticut
3 Yankee, Maine Yankee, and Yankee Rowe Spent Fuel Storage Facilities as part of his efforts. He will have
4 more information available on these efforts at a future date.

5
6 **Federal Nuclear Waste Policy (FNWP) Committee Update:** *This discussion begins at 1:30:20 on*
7 *the meeting video.*

8 Due to laryngitis, Lissa Weinmann, Chair of the Panel’s Federal Nuclear Waste Policy Committee, was
9 unable to provide a report on the Committee’s recent activities. State Nuclear Engineer Tony Leshinskie
10 briefly described the Committee’s most recent meeting, held on June 17. At this meeting, the
11 Committee received a presentation from several DOE officials regarding the development of the facility
12 design for Federal Spent Nuclear Fuel Storage facilities. The presentation and its subsequent Q&A
13 session were recorded for future reference. The recording is available from the Committee’s webpage
14 (which is part of the Panel’s website) at:

15
16 [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)
17 [federal-nuclear-waste-policy.](https://publicservice.vermont.gov/public-advocacy/vermont-yankee-decommissioning/vt-ndcap-federal-nuclear-waste-policy)

18
19 if anyone is interested in learning more about the presentation.

20
21 Part of the DOE presentation discussed a technology currently under development evaluating
22 degradation in spent fuel storage canister integrity after multiple years of use. This part of the
23 presentation resulted in a very engaging discussion. A copy of DOE’s presentation is also available via
24 the Committee webpage.

25
26 The Committee is currently planning its next meeting for October 21 (postponed from September 9).
27 Details regarding this meeting will be announced as they become available. Through meeting chat
28 messaging, Lissa Weinmann added that she was supposed to provide a verbal report this evening
29 regarding her attendance at the National Radwaste Summit held in Louisville in early June. Because of
30 her laryngitis, she needs to postpone making this summary until the Panel’s December meeting.

31
32 **Advanced Availability of NDCAP Presentations:** *This discussion begins at 1:34:10 on the meeting*
33 *video.*

34 The Panel agreed that it would continue to require its regular reporting agencies (NorthStar and the
35 several State Agencies that routinely provide Panel presentations) to have Panel presentations publicly
36 available five days prior to Full Panel meetings.

37
38 **General Public Comments to the Panel:** None.

39
40 **Meeting Wrap-Up:**

41 *This discussion begins at 1:37:40 on the meeting video.*

42 Responding to a Chris Campany question, Tony Leshinskie reported that December 9 is the Panel’s next
43 scheduled meeting date. Chris noted the small in-person attendance at tonight’s meeting. He
44 suggested that the December 9 meeting be conducted solely as a webcast, since this is now permissible
45 for Advisory Panels like VT-NDCAP. Several Panelists stated a preference for having an in-room option.

1 Chris agreed to check on using the Windham Regional Commission Conference Room as the December 9
2 meeting space, which could still accommodate tonight’s small in-person attendees.

3

4 The December 9 meeting will discuss the Panel’s 2024 Annual Report. State Nuclear Engineer Tony
5 Leshinskie committed to having a draft of the report available for Panelist review by the week of
6 November 18. Tony agreed to send out reminders to the Panelists about the December 9 meeting once
7 the report draft is available for Panelist review.

8

9 **MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:48 PM.**