

FUNDING FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF THE NDCAP – DISCUSSION DRAFT PROPOSAL

1. Legislative Changes Not Needed to Shift Funding Obligations

The following language exists already in the NDCAP enabling statute at 18 V.S.A. 1700(g)(6):

(g) The Commissioner of Public Service shall:

(6) hire experts, contract for services, and provide for materials and other reasonable and necessary expenses of the Panel as the Commissioner may consider appropriate on request of the Panel from time to time. Funds for this purpose shall come from the monies collected under 30 V.S.A. § 22 for the purpose of maintaining the Department of Public Service and such other sources as may be or become available.

The NDCAP statute thus already envisions that funding could come from a source other than the Department's budget. There is no need, therefore, to undertake a complicated revision to the statute that may not even have time to be enacted this legislative session.

One possible alternative, therefore, is that NorthStar and NDCAP could negotiate an MOU under which NorthStar would agree, subject to terms and conditions such as those outlined below, to provide funds on an annual basis that NDCAP would use for allowable operational expenses. The MOU could be negotiated with the NDCAP, with DPS or another appropriate State entity signing and enforcing the MOU on behalf of NDCAP.

2. Budget/Eligible NDCAP Expenses

The proposal below is aimed at relieving the Department of Public Service from its financial and administrative obligations related to the NDCAP, ensuring dedicated administrative support for the NDCAP, and enhancing the NDCAP's ability to communicate more robustly with affected stakeholders about material developments in the decommissioning process.

With these purposes in mind, eligible expenses would include:

- **Contracted, dedicated, communications staffer:** NDCAP would contract for a communications professional that works at the direction of NDCAP. The contractor would, among other tasks, establish NDCAP's own website with key information about NDCAP proceedings and informational topics related to decommissioning at Vermont Yankee and in general. The contractor would issue press releases and media advisories about key happenings on the Panel and with the decommissioning and otherwise facilitate public outreach and engagement to satisfy NorthStar's MOU commitment. Target budget: \$20,000 per year
- **Dedicated administrative support:** Staff person who works at the direction of NDCAP chair and is responsible for all logistical support, including drafting and circulating agendas, scheduling regular and special meetings, collecting and circulating materials from presenters to NDCAP, scheduling presenters, booking meeting venues, coordinating audio visual resources for the meetings, etc. Target budget: \$8,000 per year

- **Increased per diem for citizen panelists:** Raise the per diem amount paid to citizen panelists currently eligible for per diem to \$100 per meeting, up to four meetings per year. Target budget: \$3,200.00 (assuming 7 citizen appointees and 2 legislators eligible out of session)
 - **Meeting Space and Equipment:** Paying the costs of the meeting room in the Vernon/Brattleboro area and audio visual and other technical needs to support the regular NDCAP meetings. Target budget: \$3,000 (likely less, depending on actual historical cost figures to be provided by Department of Public Service)
 - Anticipates limited need for experts who could present remotely and/or provide information and context to NDCAP free of charge
 - Overall annual budget not to exceed \$35K with funding potentially coming from the NDT
3. Time Horizon of NorthStar Funding Obligation

NorthStar's funding obligation to support NDCAP activities would extend through NorthStar's submission to the NRC of its Partial License Termination application. At this point, NorthStar will have completed demolition, removal of waste, remediation of contamination, and restoration of site to acceptable standards imposed by the NRC and Vermont regulators respectively. NorthStar will have completed a comprehensive site survey confirming completion of decontamination and that survey will have been reviewed by State officials and the results will have been presented to NDCAP. Other than the security force guarding the spent fuel, NorthStar would not have personnel or equipment on the site.