



# VERMONT

NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING CITIZENS ADVISORY PANEL  
PUBLIC SERVICE DEPARTMENT

## **Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel Annual Report to the Governor and the Vermont Legislature**

### **2022**

Published: January 2023

(**DRAFT for Panel Review on December 12, 2022**)

*Note that text appearing in Yellow Highlight indicates a placeholder paragraph or section that will be replaced after the Panel's December 12 Meeting*

**(DRAFT Version as of 12/01/2022)**

1                               **- Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel -**  
2                               **2022 Annual Report to the Governor of Vermont and the**  
3                               **Energy Committees of the General Assembly**  
4                               (House Energy & Technology,  
5                               House Commerce & Economic Development,  
6                               House Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife, and  
7                               Senate Natural Resources & Energy Committees)  
8

9   **I. Statutory Authority and Duties**

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11   The nineteen-member Vermont Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel (“NDCAP” or  
12   the “Panel”) was established during the 2014 Legislative Session as part of Act 179 (Section E.233;  
13   pages 141 through 148 of the Act). Details on the original membership and duties of NDCAP were  
14   outlined in this Act., which is available online at:

15   [https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2014/Docs/ACTS/ACT179/ACT179%20As%20Enac](https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2014/Docs/ACTS/ACT179/ACT179%20As%20Enacted.pdf)  
16   [ted.pdf](https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2014/Docs/ACTS/ACT179/ACT179%20As%20Enacted.pdf).

17  
18   Current Membership and duties of NDCAP were established during the 2021 legislative session as  
19   part of Act 54, (Section 13, pages 11 through 16 of the Act). Details on the current membership  
20   and duties of NDCAP are available online at:

21   <https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/fullchapter/18/034>.

22  
23   The list of current members of the Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel may be  
24   found at <http://publicservice.vermont.gov/electric/ndcap> (aka, the NDCAP website). Changes in  
25   Panel membership during 2022 may be discerned by reviewing the meeting minutes and meeting  
26   recordings available at the NDCAP website. The Panel’s second representative for the Town of  
27   Vernon (created in Act 54 of the 2021 Legislature) assumed office in time for the February 28 Full  
28   Panel Meeting. As of September 1, the Panel’s second citizen-appointee by the Vermont House  
29   Speaker is vacant. The two optional Panel representatives for Massachusetts and New Hampshire  
30   towns near the Vermont Yankee site were vacant throughout 2022.

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32   **II. Charter**

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34   The NDCAP Charter was adopted on February 25, 2015 and was amended on May 26, 2016. The  
35   current Charter is available at: [NDCAP Charter as of 2016.05.26](#). The Charter is also available on  
36   the NDCAP website Main Page at:

37   <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/electric/ndcap>

38  
39   No changes to the NDCAP Charter were made during 2022. However, changes to the NDCAP  
40   Charter may be necessary due to the changes in Panel membership and duties implemented in

41 [ACT 54 of the 2021 Legislative Session](#). Where any discrepancies between Act 54 language and  
42 NDCAP Charter exist, the Act 54 language takes precedence.

43

### 44 **III. Meeting Highlights**

45

46 The NDCAP held five meetings in 2022; meetings were held in January, February, May, September,  
47 and December. All meetings were open to the public and opportunities for public comments were  
48 provided. Because of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, the February, May, September, and  
49 December meetings were conducted entirely as webcasts, as was permitted by [ACT 78 of the 2022](#)  
50 [Legislative Session](#). (These webcasts were conducted via Zoom using services provided by  
51 Brattleboro Community Television.) The January meeting was conducted primarily as Microsoft  
52 Teams webcast. However, in compliance with Open Meeting Law, a physical meeting space was  
53 available in downtown Brattleboro for this meeting.

54

55 The May, September, and December meetings included updates on recent VY decommissioning  
56 activities by both NorthStar and the State of Vermont. Educational and issue-specific topics were  
57 also discussed at these meetings. The January and February meetings each focused on dedicated  
58 topics that had previously been identified at the Panel's December 2021 meeting. Opportunities  
59 for discussion and comments from Panelists and the public on all covered topics were provided  
60 during each meeting. A summary of each meeting is presented below.

61

62 The minutes of each meeting can be found on the NDCAP website (a dedicated section of the  
63 Public Service Department website) at <http://publicservice.vermont.gov/electric/ndcap>. A  
64 complete video or webcast recording for each meeting can be found at:  
65 <https://www.brattleborotv.org/vt-nuclear-decommissioning-citizens-advisory-panel>.

66

67 Links to these video recordings are also available through the NDCAP website. Additional  
68 information regarding VY's active decommissioning is available at the Public Service  
69 Department's "VY Decommissioning" website at:  
70 <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/content/vermont-yankee-decommissioning>.

71

#### 72 **January 10, 2022**

73

74 The primary purpose of this meeting (as agreed upon at the Panel's December 2021 meeting) was  
75 to review and potentially approve the Panel's 2021 Annual Report to the Vermont Legislature.  
76 The draft Annual Report that was considered is available in the "Meeting of January 10, 2022"  
77 materials section on the Panel website (<https://publicservice.vermont.gov/electric/ndcap>).  
78 Several minor changes based on Panel and public feedback were incorporated after discussion  
79 during the meeting. Several additional comments from Panelist Lissa Weinmann were not  
80 incorporated after several Panelists expressed concern that the comments would introduce  
81 significant additional detail that had not had opportunity for review by other Panelists.

82

83 After additional discussion, consensus was reached that shorter versions of these comments could  
84 be incorporated into the report. Further details on Panel activities could be provided at the  
85 request of the Legislature. Details of the additional comments are available in the January 10  
86 meeting minutes and the “Meeting of January 10, 2022” materials section on the Panel website.

87  
88 The revised 2021 Annual Report was approved by the Panel by a 10-0 vote (with 2 abstentions)  
89 and is available at:

90 <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/content/2021-annual-report>

91  
92 The Panel also discussed and approved a breakdown of the Panel’s FY 2022 budget. The approved  
93 breakdown is available at:

94 [https://publicservice.vermont.gov/sites/dps/files/documents/NDCAP\\_2022\\_Approved\\_Budget.p](https://publicservice.vermont.gov/sites/dps/files/documents/NDCAP_2022_Approved_Budget.pdf)  
95 [df](https://publicservice.vermont.gov/sites/dps/files/documents/NDCAP_2022_Approved_Budget.pdf).

96  
97 Because this meeting occurred prior to the passage of [ACT 78 of the 2022 Legislative Session](#), this  
98 was the Panel’s only meeting in 2022 in which a physical meeting location was designated. While  
99 one Panelist attended the meeting from this location, all members of the public in attendance  
100 joined the meeting via webcast.

## 101 **February 28, 2022**

102  
103  
104 The primary purpose of this meeting (as agreed upon at the Panel’s December 2021 meeting) was  
105 to consider the US Department of Energy’s (DOE’s) request for comments on a Consent-Based  
106 Siting process for selecting potential spent nuclear fuel (high-level radioactive) waste repositories  
107 within the continental United States. The meeting featured a presentation with a questions and  
108 answers period with Dr. Kim Petry, DOE Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Spent Fuel and  
109 Waste Disposition. Several additional DOE Office of Nuclear Energy officials also attended this  
110 meeting to answer questions. Additionally, Dr. Thomas Webler of the Social & Environment  
111 Research Institute outlined research that he has conducted regarding the development of  
112 Consent-Based Siting processes for spent nuclear fuel disposal facilities.

113  
114 Presentations provided for these discussions are available in the “Meeting of February 28, 2022”  
115 materials section on the Panel website. Details on DOE’s Consent-Based Siting effort is available  
116 from the following DOE website: <https://www.energy.gov/ne/consent-based-siting>.

117  
118 DOE discussion and responses to questions emphasized that the Department of Energy is not  
119 currently seeking volunteer communities for hosting a spent nuclear fuel repository. The current  
120 effort is a first step to develop the process by which a potential host community can engage with  
121 the DOE to learn more about potentially hosting repository. The current process is geared  
122 towards siting a Consolidated Interim Spent Fuel Storage Facility because the DOE currently has  
123 Congressional funding to pursue a Consolidated Interim Storage Facility (CISF). The purpose of  
124 the Consent-Based Siting effort is to build trust between DOE and potential facility host

125 communities. DOE will regard the Consent-Based Siting effort to be successful if communities  
126 express interest in hosting a facility. The process will still be considered successful if a  
127 community expresses interest, learns more about hosting a facility, but later withdraws from the  
128 process. Responses provided to the Consent-Based Siting questionnaire will drive DOE's next  
129 steps, with the intent of providing a just selection process.

130

131 Dr. Webler's presentation noted that consent means different things to different people. With  
132 regards to siting a spent fuel storage facility, there are four general views on consent:

133

- 134 a) The "Expedient Yes" view – siting is acceptable when a good science and safety case are  
135 available
- 136 b) The "Acceptance to Gain Trust" view – independent oversight is need for the siting to work;  
137 this oversight develops from the grass-roots level.
- 138 c) The "Inclusion and Transparency " view – a facility power share between DOE and the host  
139 community is needed. The community needs independent confirmation of DOE-reported  
140 status, usually through the community hiring its own experts.
- 141 d) The "Demonstrate Legitimacy" view – DOE must show that it is listening to community  
142 feedback on the process. Time must be taken to "do it right."

143

144 Further details on the discussions with the DOE Officials and Dr. Webler are available in the  
145 meeting minutes and meeting recording available in the "Meeting of February 28, 2022" materials  
146 section on the Panel website.

147

148 A draft Advisory Opinion offered by the Panel's Federal Nuclear Waste Policy Committee in  
149 response to DOE's Consent-Based Siting questionnaire was then discussed. Based on the  
150 presentations provided earlier in the meeting and after hearing feedback from members of the  
151 public, the Panel voted to approve this Advisory Opinion. The Approved Advisory Opinion is  
152 available from the Panel's website at:

153 <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/content/vt-ndcap-response-doe-consent-based-siting-rfi>.

154

155 The Approved Advisory Opinion is included in Appendix A of this report. The Approved Advisory  
156 Opinion was submitted to the US Department of Energy as a public comment on its Consent-Based  
157 Siting Process. The DOE received 225 comments in response to its questionnaire. These  
158 comments are available from the following DOE website:

159 [https://www.energy.gov/ne/articles/responses-rfi-using-consent-based-siting-process-identify-  
160 federal-interim-storage](https://www.energy.gov/ne/articles/responses-rfi-using-consent-based-siting-process-identify-federal-interim-storage) in the document listed as "Public Responses to RFI." The Approved

161 Advisory Opinion appears on pages 379 through 383 in this document. The Vermont State  
162 Nuclear Engineer, Tony Leshinskie, filed additional comments on behalf of the Vermont Public  
163 Service Department. These comments appear on pages 1026 through 1035 in the "Public  
164 Responses to RFI" document.

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**May 9, 2022**

The Panel’s first regular meeting of the year occurred on May 9. Unlike the January 10 and February 28 that focused on the 2021 Annual Report and DOE’s Consent-Based Siting Process, respectively, the May 9 meeting was the first 2022 Panel meeting in which NorthStar and several State Agencies summarized VY decommissioning activities during the current calendar year.

- **NorthStar Update on VY Site Decommissioning Activities:**  
Panelist Corey Daniels, VY’s Senior Spent Fuel Storage Manager, summarized decommissioning activities completed since December 2021. (Slides for this presentation are available from the Panel’s website.) Reactor Vessel (RV) segmentation has progressed to segmenting the cylindrical portion of the RV itself. was described. Grout has been injected into the RV lower dome to simplify collecting of metal shavings produced by the segmentation. Recent equipment removals from the Reactor Building include Hydraulic Control Unit components, Control Rod Pump system components, and the Stand-By Liquid Control tanks. Creation of a new accessway between the Reactor and Turbine Buildings was described. Removal of components at the River Intake and Discharge Structures continue; most recently, the Discharge Pumps were removed.

On May 1, the electrical feed from VY’s Start-Up Transformers was disconnected, which transitioned the Power Block (Reactor, Turbine, Control Room, and Service) Buildings to a “Cold and Dark” condition. Going forward, electricity to these buildings will be supplied through a temporary power bus or via portable diesel generators, as needed. Achieving Cold and Dark conditions is a major milestone for the decommissioning project. All station power lines in the Power Block Buildings are now abandoned, which allows for a “rapid but controlled” removal of wiring and cable trays. Over 40 miles of wiring must be removed.

- **Public Service Department (PSD) Update:**  
PSD Special Counsel Eric Guzman outlined PSD’s fiscal oversight of the VY Decommissioning project required by the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in effect as part of NorthStar’s purchase of VY. Nick Capik and Mark Gymr of Four Points Group (FPG), PSD’s consultants for overseeing the project, were also present to provide additional information, as needed. (Slides for this presentation are available from the Panel’s website.)

PSD’s financial and technical oversight role was outlined, which includes receiving updates on work completed versus work remaining and project expenditures versus funds remaining. PSD coordinates with other State Agencies and FPG to assess project status and whether decommissioning trust fund reimbursement requests are consistent with the work completed. PSD also meets with NorthStar regularly to conduct any follow-up necessary on NorthStar’s self-reporting. Regular site visits by FPG are conducted to observe completed work. The most recent visit was on May 5. The site visits continue to show that project progress is consistent with that described in NorthStar’s status reports. NorthStar remains on track to complete the project in 2026 with the currently available funding.

210 NorthStar's required project Annual Financial Disclosures were received by their March 31  
211 deadline and are currently under review by PSD, Agency of Natural Resources, Department of  
212 Health, and the Attorney General's Office. These reviews thus far have not raised any causes for  
213 concern for completing the VY decommissioning project as expected  
214

215 • **Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Update:**

216 Graham Bradley, Hazardous Sites Manager in DEC's Waste Management and Prevention Division  
217 outlined the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) / DEC's recent interactions with VY. (Slides for  
218 this presentation are available from the Panel's website.) Regular status calls (usually on a  
219 biweekly basis), draft permit and corrective action plan reviews continue. DEC continues to work  
220 closely with NorthStar's remediation contractor, Haley & Aldrich, to address contaminant issues  
221 in previously identified Areas of Concern (AOCs). No new contamination areas have been found  
222 onsite. Samplings at the former Cooling Tower sites were described. No contaminations have  
223 been identified, but sampling will continue. Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) sampling near  
224 the Turbine Building has identified two sites requiring clean-up. These were expected since  
225 vehicle fuels were stored in these areas. Contaminated soil detected near the former East Cooling  
226 Tower Transformer site was removed and used as ballast in a radioactive waste shipment sent to  
227 Waste Control Specialists (WCS).  
228

229 • **During Panel Questions:** Marvin Resnikoff asked about the status of VY's Greater-than-  
230 Class C (GTCC) waste. Corey Daniels replied that all GTCC has been downsized and packaged for  
231 placement in the Non-Fuel Waste Container that will eventually be moved to VY Independent  
232 Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI, aka VY's Dry Cask Storage Pads). The GTCC waste  
233 packaging is currently in the Spent Fuel Pool. The move to the ISFSI will likely take place in  
234 October or so (later restated as between August and October). However, the move will not occur  
235 until RV disassembly is complete. The GTCC waste move requires the Reactor Building Crane  
236 which is currently essential to the RV disassembly work. The Spent Fuel Pool will be  
237 decommissioned once the GTCC waste move is complete.  
238

239 • **In Response to Questions from the Public:** Corey Daniels clarified that all spent fuel  
240 transfers to the ISFSI were completed in 2018. (This evening's discussions addressed waste from  
241 RV segmentation.) All GTCC waste continues to be stored onsite. Mr. Daniels also clarified that  
242 pipes at depths 4 feet below grade can be reamed out and sealed rather than removed. However,  
243 any piping having radiological contamination will be removed. It was also noted that High  
244 Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filters are used during the RV segmentation process to assure  
245 that a cool, clean air supply is available to workers in the Reactor Building. The HEPA filters  
246 assure that any potential particulates are removed from the building air.  
247

248 • **In Early General Public Comments:** The Panel was asked to improve its public outreach.  
249 State Nuclear Engineer Tony Leshinskie outlined the press release distribution process that  
250 normally occur prior to any NDCAP meeting. He also noted that he now directly controls updates  
251 to the Panel website and is using the opportunity to improve its organization. Comments and

252 suggestions for website improvements are sought, which can be sent to the Panel's email address  
253 ([PSD.NDCAP@vermont.gov](mailto:PSD.NDCAP@vermont.gov)). Concern was also raised because the meeting thus far was being  
254 conducted without a quorum of Panel members present. Panelists who are frequently absent  
255 from meetings should be reminded of their duties and should consider resigning if they are  
256 unable to serve.

257  
258 Panel Chair Emily Davis noted that because Legislature was called into session this evening on  
259 short notice, several Panelists became unexpectedly unavailable shortly before the meeting's  
260 start. She suggested that meeting attendance could be pursued through the Public Service  
261 Commissioner's Office. At this point, State Nuclear Engineer Tony Leshinskie noted that Panelist  
262 Bob Leach had recently joined the meeting webcast. The Panel now had a quorum for the meeting  
263 (which subsequently allowed the Panel to formally approve meeting minutes for the December  
264 2021, January and February meetings).

- 265  
266 • **Discussion of Federal Nuclear Waste Policy (FNWP) Committee Activities:**  
267 Lissa Weinmann, Chair of the Panel's Federal Nuclear Waste Policy Committee, briefly described  
268 the Committee's most recent activities. Representatives from Deep Isolation, Inc. outlined their  
269 proposed alternative for geologic spent fuel repositories at the Committee's March 28 meeting.  
270 (Details of this proposal are discussed in Section XI.B of this report.) The Committee will meet  
271 again on May 23. Tony Leshinskie is working on having representatives from Holtec International  
272 attend this meeting to discuss their current plans for long-term monitoring and aging  
273 management for dry cask storage systems, such as those currently used at the VT Yankee site.  
274  
275 • **During General Public Comments:** The Panel was asked to do more to publicize its recent  
276 Advisory Opinion on Spent Nuclear Fuel disposal, as this work is very important. The Legislature,  
277 Governor's Office, relevant State Agencies, and Vermont's Congressional Delegation must be kept  
278 apprised of Panel activities, particularly when Advisory Opinions are published.  
279

## 280 **September 19, 2022**

281  
282 Much like the Panel's May 9 meeting, the September 19 meeting largely consisted of reports from  
283 NorthStar and several State Agencies on recent VY decommissioning activities. Several Panel  
284 administrative items were also discussed. With 11 Panelists in attendance at the start of the  
285 meeting (a twelfth Panelist joined late), a quorum was present throughout the meeting (9  
286 Panelists required for quorum).

- 287  
288 • **NorthStar Update on VY Site Decommissioning Activities:**  
289 NorthStar Panelist Corey Daniels summarized decommissioning activities completed since May  
290 2022. (Slides for this presentation are available from the Panel's website.) It was noted that the  
291 NorthStar continues to work without an OSHA Recordable Lost Time Accident since starting VT  
292 Yankee's active decommissioning in January 2019. The NRC has issued no cited violations, nor  
293 have there been any non-cited violations, during this time. Progress on dismantling Reactor



294 Building (RB) components and the demolition of other onsite structures was described. The  
295 Control Room and the RB Computer Room have been completely cleared of components.  
296 Approximately 40 miles of cabling has been cleared from the Cable Spreading Room. Demolition  
297 of the Control Block Building (which housed the Control and Computer Rooms) has begun.  
298 Preparations for Turbine Building demolition continue.

299  
300 Excavation and downsizing of the Interim Off-Gas (IOG) System was discussed, as was land  
301 regrading at the Cooling Towers site. Progress on the new accessway between the Reactor and  
302 Turbine Buildings was described. A monorail system is being constructed to facilitate removal of  
303 the RB Torus structure through this accessway. Clearing of Torus structure internal components  
304 was described. Segmentation and removal of the Reactor Vessel (RV) has completed; the last  
305 several steps were described in detail. Demobilization of RV segmentation equipment is  
306 underway.

307  
308 • **Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Update:**  
309 Panelist Trish Coppolino, ANR / DEC Waste Management and Prevention Division Program  
310 Manager, outlined the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) / DEC's recent interactions with VY.  
311 (Slides for this presentation are available from the Panel's website.) Regular status calls, draft  
312 permit and corrective action plan reviews continue. Sampling programs for non-radiological  
313 contaminants continue to show no significant contamination issues at the VY site. No unexpected  
314 site contaminations have been identified thus far. ANR/DEC continues to work closely with  
315 NorthStar's remediation contractor, Haley & Aldrich, and DEC's consultant, Atlas, on plans for  
316 addressing potential contaminant issues at VY's previously identified Areas of Concern (AOCs).  
317 DEC is currently reviewing VT Yankee's annual groundwater monitoring report, which was  
318 received in June as required. Due to ongoing structure demolitions onsite, DEC's groundwater  
319 monitoring program is currently down to four sampling wells. The monitoring program has  
320 collected data for over three years without identifying new causes for concern. Additional  
321 monitoring wells will be sampled as onsite demolitions complete.

322  
323 Recent samplings for PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) have identified several  
324 contaminated locations (as expected). However, the environmental impacts are expected to be  
325 minor; the contamination levels are only slightly above EPA limits. Samplings for PCBs and  
326 Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) continue.

327  
328 Corrective Action Plans for addressing contaminations in onsite AOC #5 and AOC #7 are currently  
329 available for public comments. These planned remediations, once fully approved, would occur  
330 sometime in 2023.

331  
332 • **Public Service Department (PSD) Update:**  
333 Jim Porter, PSD Director for Public Advocacy outlined PSD's fiscal oversight of the VY  
334 Decommissioning project required by the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in effect as part  
335 of NorthStar's purchase of VY. Nick Capik and Mark Gymr of Four Points Group (FPG), PSD's

336 consultants for overseeing the project, were also present to provide additional information, as  
337 needed. (Slides for this presentation are available from the Panel’s website.) PSD’s financial and  
338 technical oversight role was outlined similarly to the report provided at the May 9 Panel meeting.  
339 Regular site visits by FPG are conducted to observe completed work. The most recent visit was on  
340 July 18. The observed project progress was consistent with that described in NorthStar’s most  
341 recent (May and June 2022) status reports.

342  
343 Updates on the Decommissioning and Site Restoration Trust Funds were provided. As of  
344 August 31, approximately \$211.3 million remains in the Decommissioning Trust; approximately  
345 \$51.7 million remains in the Site Restoration Trust. As of August 30, the projected cost to  
346 complete Site Restoration is \$12.6 million. However, the projected cost to complete  
347 Decommissioning and License Termination is \$214 million, meaning that there is currently a  
348 shortage in the Decommissioning Trust Fund. PSD believes that the current Decommissioning  
349 Trust shortage is reflective of rising interest rate impacts on the Decommission Trust investments.  
350 The Decommissioning and Site Restoration Trust balances do not include the \$55 million  
351 Financial Assurance Escrow required by Paragraph 2(c) of the Memorandum of Understanding  
352 (MOU) established for VT Yankee’s decommissioning. Overall, NorthStar remains on track to  
353 complete the project on schedule with the currently available funding

354  
355 • **Additional Agency Reports:** Panelist Bill Irwin, Vermont Radiological & Toxicological  
356 Sciences Program Chief, reported that Vermont Department of Health continues to be satisfied  
357 with the reporting NorthStar has provided to date. The reports indicate that the project is moving  
358 forward reasonably and responsibly.

359  
360 • **During Panel Questions:** In response to a question from Panelist Bill Irwin, Corey Daniels  
361 indicated that building intrusion water continues to be collected as necessary. The water is  
362 initially held in storage (frack) tanks and is then shipped offsite for disposal.

363  
364 • **In response to questions from the Public:** Corey Daniels indicated that all radioactive  
365 materials shipped offsite are sent to Waste Control Specialists (WCS) facilities in Texas. However,  
366 some pre-release (non-radiological / non-hazardous) materials are shipped to industrial disposal  
367 facilities. He also clarified that some parts of the Reactor Vessel are being shipped offsite since  
368 they still qualify as Low-Level Radioactive waste. Only spent nuclear fuel qualifies as High-Level  
369 Radioactive Waste. The next most radioactive waste category, Greater Than Class C (GTCC)  
370 radioactive waste is the only low-level radioactive waste category that cannot be shipped. VY’s  
371 GTCC waste consists of several Reactor Vessel internal components, but not the Reactor Vessel  
372 itself. VT Yankee’s GTCC waste is expected to be moved to the onsite Spent Fuel Storage Facility  
373 (aka the Dry Cask Storage pads or ISFSI) within the next month.

374  
375 In response to a question from State Nuclear Engineer Tony Leshinskie, Corey Daniels indicated  
376 that, with the completion of VY’s Reactor Vessel segmentation, Orano’s work on the VY  
377 decommissioning project is coming to an end. However, Orano is still responsible for some Spent

378 Fuel Pool clean-up items and several tasks related to transferring the GTCC Waste to the onsite  
379 ISFSI.

380

381 • **In the Early General Public Comments:** Ann Darling (Citizens Awareness Network)  
382 reiterated her comments at previous meetings that the Panel needs more public outreach.  
383 Citizens Awareness Network is open to assisting the Panel with this. Ms. Darling also noted that  
384 the Panel had problems meeting quorum at its last meeting. Vacancies on the Panel need to be  
385 filled.

386

387 In response to a question from Panelist Lissa Weinmann regarding the current decommissioning  
388 schedule, Corey Daniels indicated that that NorthStar still anticipates beating the 2030  
389 decommissioning project deadline by a few years. Active decommissioning could complete in  
390 2026. However, this early end date does not include time for completing all site release activities.  
391 Those would complete in 2027, assuming that ongoing decommissioning work continues to  
392 progress smoothly. NorthStar's overall goal is to do the decommissioning project right with the  
393 currently available funding. The project remains on track to be completed within the available  
394 budget.

395

396 Panelist Chris Campany noted that the Statute establishing the Panel will need to be revisited once  
397 active decommissioning is complete. State Nuclear Engineer Tony Leshinskie added that the  
398 Yankee Rowe Spent Fuel Storage Facility's Community Advisory Panel could serve as a model for  
399 VT NDCAP once VY's active decommissioning is complete.

400

401 • **Panel Membership Changes & Administrative Items:** Panel Chair Emily Davis noted that  
402 Sara Coffey's term on the Panel expired at the end of August. She declined reappointment.  
403 Accordingly, there are now three vacancies on the Panel, the Massachusetts Towns representative,  
404 the New Hampshire Towns representative and one of two citizen appoints by the Vermont House  
405 Speaker (Sara Coffey's former position on the Panel). Ms. Davis reported that the House Speaker's  
406 Office is looking for recommendations for a new appointee. If anyone on the Panel has  
407 suggestions, they can be forwarded to the Panel Chair.

408

409 State Nuclear Engineer Tony Leshinskie noted that filling a Panel vacancy is easier when there is a  
410 volunteer willing to accept the position. Panelist Chris Campany added that recruiting Panelists  
411 was likely easier when "groundworks" discussions for VY's decommissioning were underway.  
412 Discussing plans and items such as the PSDAR (Post-Shutdown Decommissioning Activities  
413 Report) were likely more interesting than the Panel's more recent meetings discussing steady  
414 decommissioning progress. Mr. Campany suggested that the Press present this evening report  
415 that the Panel is looking for new members.

416

417 Emily Davis proposed drafting a press release highlighting the Panel's recent work and noting that  
418 it is looking new members to fill several vacancies. After additional discussion, the Panel agreed  
419 with this idea. Ms. Davis agreed to have a draft of the press release available at the next Full Panel

420 meeting. After additional discussion, the Panel agreed that the proposed press release would  
421 focus on filling the vacant Vermont House Speaker’s appointee position.

422  
423 **Panel Notifications on NRC Decommissioning Rulemaking:** Panel Chair Emily Davis noted that  
424 an opportunity for public comments on the NRC’s Decommissioning Rulemaking recently closed  
425 without the Panel discussing whether it wanted to consider commenting on these propose rules.  
426 Ms. Davis asked whether the Panel wished to pursue comments on this Rulemaking.

427  
428 State Nuclear Engineer Tony Leshinskie briefly outlined the history of this NRC Rulemaking effort,  
429 which began in late 2015, when the NRC published a detailed questionnaire on decommissioning-  
430 related topics for which it was considering rulemaking. Vermont State Agencies provided a  
431 combined comments set on the questionnaire in early 2016, which were endorsed by  
432 Massachusetts, New York, and Connecticut. Follow-up comments were provided to the NRC in  
433 mid-2017. The currently proposed NRC rules focus on transitioning an operating power plant to  
434 active decommissioning. VYs decommissioning is well past this phase, hence, the currently  
435 proposed rules would not impact VY’s decommissioning. Accordingly, this rulemaking effort has  
436 not been a high priority for Vermont. Nonetheless, when asked to endorse comments from New  
437 York State on the currently proposed rules, the State Nuclear Engineer recommended that  
438 Vermont endorse them since they reiterated Vermont’s comments filed in 2016 and 2017.

439  
440 Chris Campany added that Windham Regional Commission has filed comments on  
441 decommissioning rulemaking for decades. The comments have not changed much in that time,  
442 but WRC is open to hearing or suggesting Panel Positions. Lissa Weinmann suggested that the  
443 Panel could endorse decommissioning rulemaking comments filed by other organizations, such as  
444 the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW).

445  
446 Panel Chair Emily Davis asked if any Panel members felt that the Panel should review the NRC’s  
447 decommissioning rulemaking further. No replies were heard. Consensus was reached that the  
448 Panel should consider endorsing IBEW’s comments the NRC decommissioning rulemaking.

449  
450 The Panel then discussed improving notifications of upcoming decommissioning-related actions.  
451 After requesting clarification, Tony Leshinskie agreed to keep the Panel informed on any requests  
452 from Federal Agency regarding decommissioning-related topics, as well as any significant State  
453 actions in decommissioning-related topics.

454  
455 Panel Chair Emily Davis noted that US Department of Energy published its initial report on  
456 received Consent-Based Siting Process comments on September 15. More information on the next  
457 steps in the process will be available soon.

458  
459 • **Discussion of Federal Nuclear Waste Policy (FNWP) Committee Activities:**  
460 Lissa Weinmann, Chair of the Panel’s Federal Nuclear Waste Policy Committee, briefly described  
461 the Committee’s most recent activities. The Committee has been less active over the summer but

462 continues to learn about nation nuclear waste policy issues. The Committee had planned to meet  
463 on August 22, but that meeting had to be postponed when the scheduled speaker became  
464 unexpectedly unavailable.

465  
466 State Nuclear Engineer Tony Leshinskie provided additional details. Oliver Edelson, Legislative  
467 Assistant to California Congressional Representative Mike Levin has agreed to speak to the FNWP  
468 Committee. Congressman Levin co-chairs the Congressional Spent Nuclear Fuel Solutions Caucus,  
469 which Mr. Edelson administers. From preliminary discussions with Mr. Edelson, the Caucus is in a  
470 learning phase much like the FNWP Committee is. The Caucus has begun outreach to other  
471 organizations interested in nuclear waste policy issues. Opening a discussion with the Caucus  
472 could be beneficial for the Panel.

473  
474 Based on Mr. Edelson's availability, the FNWP Committee's next meeting has been rescheduled to  
475 Monday, October 3 from noon to 1:30 PM.

476  
477 • **General Public Comments:** The Panel was thanked for tonight's discussions on improving  
478 public outreach.

479

480 **December 12, 2022** *(this section will be finalized after the December 12 meeting)*

481  
482 Much like the Panel's May and September meetings, the December 12 meeting largely consisted of  
483 reports from NorthStar and several State Agencies on recent VY decommissioning activities. The  
484 Panel's Annual Report was finalized and Election of Officers was conducted. With 13 Panelists in  
485 attendance at the start of the meeting, a quorum was present throughout the meeting (9 Panelists  
486 required for quorum).

487  
488 • **NorthStar Update on VY Site Decommissioning Activities:**  
489 NorthStar Panelist Corey Daniels summarized decommissioning activities completed since  
490 September 2022. (Slides for this presentation are available from the Panel's website.) It was  
491 noted that the NorthStar continues to work without an OSHA Recordable Lost Time Accident since  
492 starting VT Yankee's active decommissioning in January 2019. The NRC has issued no cited  
493 violations during this time. Progress on dismantling Reactor Building (RB) components and the  
494 demolition of other onsite structures was described. Demolition of the Control Block Building  
495 (which housed the Control and Computer Rooms) is complete, as is demolition of the Containment  
496 Access Building. Demolition of the Reactor Building Airlock is underway. Preparations for  
497 Turbine Building demolition continue.

498

499 On October 19, VY's Greater-Than-Class C (GTCC) low level radioactive waste was moved to the  
500 ISFSI. The GTCC waste consists of several highly contaminated VY Reactor Vessel (RV) internal  
501 components which had been stored temporarily in VY's Spent Fuel Pool following their removal  
502 from the RV. The GTCC waste is stored in a Non-Fuel Waste Container, which is similar to the dry  
503 casks used to store VY's spent nuclear fuel on the ISFSI pads.

504 Confirmatory radiological surveys at the Cooling Towers site were conducted during the week of  
505 November 14 by an independent contractor (Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education). The  
506 monorail system in the new accessway between the Reactor and Turbine Buildings is fully  
507 operational. Clearing of Torus structure components continues. Demobilization of RV  
508 segmentation equipment has completed. Orano's work on the VY decommissioning project has  
509 completed.

510  
511 • **Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Update:**

512 Graham Bradley, Hazardous Sites Manager in DEC's Waste Management and Prevention Division  
513 outlined the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) / DEC's recent interactions with VY. (Slides for  
514 this presentation are available from the Panel's website.) Regular status calls, draft permit and  
515 corrective action plan reviews continue. Sampling programs for non-radiological contaminants  
516 continue to show no significant contamination issues at the VY site. No unexpected site  
517 contaminations have been identified thus far. ANR/DEC continues to work closely with  
518 NorthStar's remediation contractor, Haley & Aldrich, and DEC's consultant, Atlas, on plans for  
519 addressing potential contaminant issues at VY's previously identified Areas of Concern (AOCs).  
520 DEC is closely following the remediation of the drain lines for the VY's abandoned onsite  
521 Chemistry Lab (located in a gutted section of the Turbine Building).

522  
523 • **Public Service Department (PSD) Update:**

524 Jim Porter, PSD Director for Public Advocacy outlined PSD's fiscal oversight of the VY  
525 Decommissioning project required by the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in effect as part  
526 of NorthStar's purchase of VY. Nick Capik and Mark Gymr of Four Points Group (FPG), PSD's  
527 consultants for overseeing the project, were also present to provide additional information, as  
528 needed. (Slides for this presentation are available from the Panel's website.) PSD's financial and  
529 technical oversight role was outlined similarly to the report provided at the May and September  
530 Panel meetings. Regular site visits by FPG are conducted to observe completed work. The most  
531 recent visit was on November 30. The observed project progress was consistent with that  
532 described in NorthStar's most recent status reports.

533  
534 Overall, NorthStar remains on track to complete the project on schedule with the currently  
535 available funding.

536  
537 • **During Panel Questions:** In response to a question from Panelist Bill Irwin, Corey Daniels  
538 indicated that building intrusion water continues to be collected as necessary. The water is  
539 initially held in storage (frack) tanks and is then shipped offsite for disposal.

540  
541 • **In response to questions from the Public:** Corey Daniels indicated that all radioactive  
542 materials shipped offsite are sent to Waste Control Specialists (WCS) facilities in Texas. However,  
543 some pre-release (non-radiological / non-hazardous) materials are shipped to industrial disposal  
544 facilities. He also clarified that some parts of the Reactor Vessel are being shipped offsite since

545 they still qualify as Low-Level Radioactive waste. Only spent nuclear fuel qualifies as High-Level  
546 Radioactive Waste.

547  
548 • **In the Early General Public Comments:** The Panel was asked to continue work on  
549 improving its public outreach. Concern was expressed that Panel meetings needed to be  
550 publicized more.

551  
552 • **Discussion of Federal Nuclear Waste Policy (FNWP) Committee Activities:**  
553 Lissa Weinmann, Chair of the Panel's Federal Nuclear Waste Policy Committee, briefly described  
554 the Committee's most recent activities. The Committee met on October 5 and December 5. The  
555 October 5 meeting featured a presentation by Mr. Oliver Edelson, Legislative Assistant to  
556 California Congressional Representative Mike Levin. Congressman Levin co-chairs the  
557 Congressional Spent Nuclear Fuel Solutions Caucus, which Mr. Edelson administers. The  
558 presentation discussed several bills recently introduced in Congress that could address national  
559 spent nuclear fuel issues.

560  
561 At the December 5 meeting, the FNWP Committee members brainstormed for nuclear waste  
562 policy items to pursue further in 2023. The Committee agreed to meet next on XXXXXX XX, 2023.

563  
564 • **Draft Annual Report for 2022:**  
565 A first draft of the Panel's 2022 Annual Report to the Legislature, authored primarily by State  
566 Nuclear Engineer Tony Leshinski, was reviewed. Directions for completing the report by its  
567 January 15, 2023 were authorized.

568  
569 • **Election of New Panel Officers:** In separate votes, XXXXXXXX was elected Panel Chair and  
570 XXXXXXXX was elected Panel Vice-Chair for terms of 1 year. The Panel thanked Emily Davis and Josh  
571 Unruh for their service as Panel Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively, in 2022.

572  
573 • **General Public Comments:** Emily Davis and Josh Unruh were thanked for their service as  
574 Panel Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively, in 2022.

#### 576 IV. Major Milestones and Activities at the Vermont Yankee Site

- 577
- 578 • 1/3 Site Decommissioning Activities resume following Holiday Break
  - 579 • 1/3 Preparations for segmenting the Reactor Vessel (RV) itself begin; Collection of metal  
580 shavings and cutting media from RV internals segmentations underway;  
581 Decontamination of exposed RV Cavity & Dryer / Separator Pit (DSP) walls resume;  
582 Turbine Building (TB) piping and equipment removals resume; Clearing of Radwaste  
583 Processing Building rubble and River Intake Structure components resume; West  
584 Cooling Tower foundation demolition resumes; Radioactive waste shipments via  
585 railcars resume

- 586 • 1/10 Removal of Control Blade Hydraulic Control Units begins; Preparations to cut new
- 587 accessway between RB & TB lower levels begin;
- 588 • 1/12 NRC Second Half 2021 Inspection Exit Meeting – no reported issues, findings,
- 589 or violations
- 590 • 1/17 West Cooling Tower foundation demolition completed (except for required
- 591 radiological surveys); Cleaning / decontamination of TB sumps underway
- 592 • 1/24 Draining of RV Cavity & DSP resumes (started 11/8/2021); Travelling Screens
- 593 removed from River Intake Structure
- 594 • 1/28 Draining of RV Cavity & DSP completed; Circulating Water System pump motors
- 595 removed from River Intake Structure
- 596 • 2/7 First Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) onsite inspection of the year occurs
- 597 (2/7 through 2/10)
- 598 • 3/7 RV Bellows removal begins; RV draining for eventual segmentation underway;
- 599 New TB personnel entrance cut into Lube Oil Storage Room west wall
- 600 • 3/9 Current phase of River Intake Structure components removal complete; River
- 601 Discharge Structure components removal begins
- 602 • 3/10 RV draining completed; removal of remaining RV Head Studs begins
- 603 • 3/16 Quarterly groundwater sampling completed
- 604 • 3/17 RV Head Studs removal completed; RV metal shavings / cutting media collection
- 605 & RV internal surface decontamination completed
- 606 • 3/24 RV Bellows removal completed; RV Nozzles cutting begins
- 607 • 3/31 NorthStar files required Annual VY Decommissioning Trust Fund and Spent Fuel
- 608 Management Fund reports
- 609 • 3/31 Removal of Control Blade Hydraulic Control Units completed
- 610 • 4/4 Cutting for new accessway between RB & TB lower levels begins
- 611 • 4/4 Second NRC onsite inspection of the year occurs (4/4 through 4/7)
- 612 • 4/14 VY “Tabletop” Site Emergency Drills Completed
- 613 • 4/18 Radiation Control Area (RCA) entrance relocated to TB Lube Oil Storage Room
- 614 • 4/26 Diesel Fire Pump & Circulating Water System Pumps removed from River Intake
- 615 Structure
- 616 • 4/29 Site staff in remaining RB & TB offices relocated to Plant Support Building & adjacent
- 617 office trailers; Onsite Chemistry Lab moved to Gate House #2
- 618 • 5/1 VY Start-Up Transformers disconnected from onsite switchyard, resulting in
- 619 RB & TB transition to “cold & dark” conditions
- 620 • 5/2 RV segmentation begins; removal of abandoned RB & TB electrical systems begins;
- 621 cable clearing and dismantling of VY Control Room begins
- 622 • 5/6 First RV “ring cut” segmentation completed; component removals from River Intake
- 623 & Discharge Structures complete (concrete structures to be removed later)
- 624 • 5/9 Excavation / underground pipes & foundations removal at Cooling Towers begins
- 625 • 5/13 Cutting for new accessway between RB & TB lower levels completed
- 626 • 5/23 Internal demolition (gutting) of TB “plant services” module begins
- 627



- 628 • 5/30 Materials Transfer “monorail” construction through RB & TB lower levels accessway  
629 begins
- 630 • 6/1 Annual site roadway assessment completed (required by Town of Vernon)
- 631 • 6/10 RV Nozzles cutting completed
- 632 • 6/13 VY Control Room dismantling completed; VY Cable & Switchgear Rooms dismantling  
633 begins
- 634 • 6/13 Third NRC onsite inspection of the year occurs (6/13 through 6/17)
- 635 • 6/16 New NRC Project Manager for VY Decommissioning visits site
- 636 • 6/22 Quarterly groundwater sampling completed; Annual groundwater sampling report  
637 submitted for DEC review
- 638 • 6/29 Fifth & final RV “ring cut” segmentation completed
- 639 • 6/30 1.3 million working hours without an OSHA recordable injury at VY celebrated
- 640 • 7/5 Torus Structure segmentation begins
- 641 • 7/11 Excavation for remediation & removal of VY Interim Off-Gas (IOG) System begins
- 642 • 7/12 NRC First Half 2022 Inspection Exit Meeting – no reported issues, findings, or  
643 violations
- 644 • 7/18 Excavation / structures removal at Cooling Towers site completed; regrading at  
645 Cooling Towers site begins
- 646 • 7/25 RV Lower Head removal cutting & Cooling Tower spray pond demolition begin
- 647 • 8/1 IOG System structures demolition begins
- 648 • 8/1 Fourth NRC onsite inspection of the year occurs (8/1 through 8/4); Preliminary  
649 License Termination Plan (LTP) meeting held at site
- 650 • 8/4 RV Lower Head removed from RV Cavity; segmentation for offsite disposal begins
- 651 • 8/16 NRC onsite for follow-up to 8/1 to 8/4 inspections
- 652 • 8/18 RV Lower Head segmentation completed
- 653 • 8/22 Torus Structure sludge removal begins; IOG System demolition completed
- 654 • 8/29 Excavation to remediate former Effluent Stack site begins
- 655 • 9/2 Torus Structure sludge removal completed; VY Cable & Switchgear dismantling  
656 completed; final preps for demolishing “Control Block” building underway;  
657 demobilization of RV segmentation equipment underway
- 658 • 9/15 Demolition of Control Block building begins
- 659 • 9/29 Demolition of Control Block building completed
- 660 • 9/30 Regrading at Cooling Towers site completed; Final radiological surveys at  
661 Cooling Towers site begin
- 662 • 10/3 Fifth NRC onsite inspection of the year occurs (10/3 through 10/6)
- 663 • 10/4 NRC assigned License Termination Inspector visits site
- 664 • 10/6 Final radiological surveys at Cooling Towers and IOG System sites completed
- 665 • 10/10 DEC issues revised VY river discharge permit for public comment
- 666 • 10/10 RB Recirculating Water System (RWS) components removal begins
- 667 • 10/12 Onsite Radiological Emergency Drill completed
- 668 • 10/17 Demolition of Orano onsite Horizontal Transfer (radwaste) Storage modules begins

- 669 • 10/19 Greater-Than-Class C Radioactive Waste moved to VY Dry Cask Storage Pad
- 670 • 10/21 Last container of RV segments shipped to Waste Control Specialists
- 671 • 10/24 Orano demobilization from VY site begins
- 672 • 10/27 RWS Pump Motors removed
- 673 • 10/31 Equipment removals from RB airlock & Containment Access Building begin
- 674 • 11/7 Final draining & decontamination of Spent Fuel Pool begins; components clearing in
- 675 RB Radwaste Clean-Up System Room underway
- 676 • 11/10 Demolition of Orano Horizontal Transfer Storage (HTS) modules completed
- 677 • 11/14 DEC approves revised VY river discharge permit
- 678 • 11/14 Sixth NRC onsite inspection of the year occurs (11/14 through 11/17); NRC
- 679 Contractor conducts independent, confirmatory survey at Cooling Towers site
- 680 • 11/14 Demolition of Containment Access Building begins; RB Airlock equipment removals
- 681 completed
- 682 • 11/15 Demolition of Containment Access Building completed
- 683 • 11/21 Demolition of RB Airlock begins
- 684 • 11/22 Clearing of Orano HTS debris completed (last Orano task at VY site)
- 685 • 11/23 Orano demobilization from VY site completed
- 686 • 11/28 Excavations at former IOG System site covered and regraded; area cordoned-off
- 687 as radiologically clean
- 688 • 12/20 Demolition of RB Airlock completed
- 689
- 690

691 **V. Nuclear Decommissioning Trust (NDT) and Site Restoration Trust (SRT) Fund Updates**

692 *(Based on latest available data for 2022).*

693	NDT	SRT
694		
695	\$276.3 M Balance on December 31, 2021	\$56.9 M Balance on December 31, 2021
696	\$247.9 M Balance on March 31, 2022	\$52.8 M Balance on March 31, 2022
697	\$226.8 M Balance on June 30, 2022	\$52.2 M Balance on June 30, 2022
698	\$203.1 M Balance on September 30, 2022	\$50.8 M Balance on September 30, 2022
699	\$196.0 M Balance on October 31, 2022	\$50.6 M Balance on October 31, 2022
700	\$XXX.X M Balance on December 31, 2022	\$XX.X M Balance on December 31, 2022

701

702 Monthly balances for the NDT and SRT are available at:

703 <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/content/trust-balances>.

704

705 Summaries of monthly expenditures for the Vermont Yankee Decommissioning Project are

706 available: <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/content/public-reports>.

707

708 **VI. Spent Nuclear Fuel Status at Vermont Yankee**

709 Transfer of VY’s entire spent fuel inventory to dry cask storage was completed on August 1,  
710 2018. A total of 58 dry casks, holding a total of 3,880 spent fuel assemblies, are stored at the VY  
711 Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI). While no changes in the configuration of  
712 VY’s dry casks occurred in 2022, on October 19, a new, 59th dry cask containing VY’s Greater-  
713 Than-Class C (GTCC) low level radioactive waste was moved to the ISFSI. (This GTCC waste  
714 consists of several highly contaminated VY Reactor Vessel internal components which had been  
715 stored temporarily in VY’s Spent Fuel Pool following their removal from the RV.) With this  
716 move, all VY GTCC waste resides at the VY ISFSI. VY’s spent fuel will remain at the VY ISFSI until  
717 the US Department of Energy fulfills its obligation to provide a national spent nuclear fuel  
718 repository. VY’s GTCC waste will remain at the VY ISFSI until a US radioactive waste disposal  
719 facility is licensed to accept GTCC waste.

720  
721 A total of 6 vacant cask spaces remain on VY’s ISFSI pads. Four of these are required should the  
722 arrangement of the dry casks on the two ISFSI pads need to be changed for any reason. The  
723 remaining two spaces were designated for storing additional VY GTCC Low Level Radioactive  
724 Waste. Early (circa 2014) GTCC volume estimates suggested that VY could require as many as  
725 three GTCC waste casks. More refined estimates (circa 2018 and later) determined that only one  
726 GTCC waste cask would be necessary.

727  
728 **VII. Significant Vermont Yankee Site Changes**

729 Monitoring of the Vermont Yankee Spent Nuclear Fuel is controlled from the site’s Central Alarm  
730 Station (CAS) Building, which became operational on August 23, 2018. No significant changes to  
731 Vermont Yankee’s spent fuel monitoring programs occurred during 2022. All Vermont Yankee  
732 site changes occurring in 2022 resulted from the continuation of decommissioning activities  
733 which commenced on January 11, 2019.

- 734  
735 The following onsite structures were demolished during 2022:
- 736 • Control Room Block (Building )
  - 737 • Containment Access Building
  - 738 • Interim Off-Gas System Structures
  - 739 • Orano Horizontal Transfer Storage Modules (reinforced concrete structures used for  
740 temporary radwaste storage)
  - 741 • “Plant Services” Building (partial demolition of a section of the Turbine Building)
  - 742 • River Intake & Discharge Structure major components (structures themselves remain)
  - 743 • Several below grade Cooling Tower structures
  - 744 • Abandoned security structures & barricades (none of which impact the VY ISFSI)

745

746 Additionally, the power transformer connections to the Reactor and Turbine Buildings were  
747 disconnected on May 1, disconnecting these buildings from the local power grid. By doing so, the  
748 wholesale removal of electrical connections within these buildings could safely begin.

749

750 Segmentation and removal of the Reactor Vessel was completed in October. RB demolition  
751 efforts have turned to removing major components from abandoned reactor systems. Similar  
752 component removals will continue throughout 2023. To help facilitate these component  
753 removals, a new accessway between the Reactor and Turbine Building lower levels was cut. A  
754 monorail system for moving RB component segments through this accessway for packaging and  
755 offsite disposal became operational in November.

756

757 The partial demolition of the Plant Services section of the Turbine Building has resulted in two  
758 significant onsite changes. Personnel access into the Reactor and Turbine Buildings is now  
759 through a new doorway cut into the TB Lube Oil Storage Room. The site's previous Radiation  
760 Protection Checkpoint (site of the previous personnel accessway for both buildings) has been  
761 demolished. Radiation Protection Checkpoint functions are now performed in the Lube Oil  
762 Storage Room and Gatehouse #2. Additionally, the Radiation Protection Checkpoint's onsite  
763 Chemistry Laboratory has moved to Gatehouse #2.

764

765 The concrete pads for the previously demolished Shipping and Receiving Warehouse and the  
766 Advanced Off-Gas (AOG) Building remain in place. The below grade structures for the AOG  
767 Building and the Transformer pad also remain in place.

768

769 No significant onsite road repairs were required this year. Maintenance for the onsite rail spur  
770 occurred on an as needed basis but did not impact radioactive waste and debris shipments to  
771 offsite facilities.

772

### 773 **VIII. Vermont Yankee Water Management Program**

774 • Rainfall at the VY site during 2022 returned to more typical annual values (rather than the  
775 unusually high 2021 rainfall). Accordingly, the rate of groundwater entering the Turbine  
776 Building in 2022 is similar to rates seen in 2018 through 2020.

- 777 ○ In leakage rates ranged between 200 and 700 gallons per day in 2022
- 778 ○ At End of Year, the rate was roughly 300 gallons per day (similar to previous end of  
779 year rates).
- 780 ○ In leakage remains below rates initially seen in 2015

781 • Roughly 450,835 gallons of in leakage water have shipped in 2022

- 782 ○ All VT Yankee water shipments were sent to Waste Control Specialists (WCS) NRC-  
783 licensed disposal site in Andrews County, Texas during 2022.
- 784 ○ No water has shipped to US Ecology's hazardous waste disposal facility in  
785 Grandview, Idaho, even though Vermont Yankee received NRC approval in 2021 to  
786 ship up to 2,000,000 gallons of contaminated water to this facility. Vermont Yankee

- 787 was previously allowed to ship a total 200,000 gallons of contaminated water to this  
788 facility during 2019 and 2020.
- 789 ○ 20 in-leakage water shipments occurred in 2022, all shipments made were via  
790 tanker rail cars.
  - 791 ○ Each in-leakage water shipment contained no more than 0.004 Curies of radioactive  
792 material
  - 793 ○ Groundwater shipments to WCS facilities continue “as-needed.”
- 794 • A total of 1,709,000 gallons of in-leakage water have been shipped to date
  - 795 • The system of water diversion wells installed in 2020 along the Turbine Building periphery  
796 to mitigate future water shipments remains in use. However, this system does not address  
797 all potential intrusion water sources. Diverted, uncontaminated water is discharged to the  
798 Connecticut River on an as-needed basis. Each discharge is limited to ~15,000 gallons per  
799 day.
  - 800 • VY completed shipping a roughly 900,000 gallon inventory of contaminated Process Water  
801 (water from abandoned VY systems) previously stored in the Suppression System Torus to  
802 WCS facilities. Shipments of this inventory began in 2021.
    - 803 ○ ~23,000 gallons per shipment
    - 804 ○ 20 shipments (438,000 gallons) shipped in 2022
  - 805 • During 2022, VY also shipped roughly 288,000 gallons of contaminated water previously  
806 used in the Spent Fuel Pool to WCS facilities. This was the last Process Water inventory at  
807 the site.
    - 808 ○ ~23,000 gallons per shipment
    - 809 ○ 13 shipments (entire inventory) shipped in 2022
    - 810 ○ Each Process Water shipment contained between 0.065 and 0.1 Curies of  
811 radioactive material

## 813 IX. Decommissioning Waste Shipments Summary

814  
815 A summary of radiological and hazardous waste shipments made from the Vermont Yankee site  
816 during 2022 follows.

### 817 IX.A Radioactive Waste Shipments Summary

818  
819 An annual summary of Vermont Yankee’s radioactive waste shipments is published in mid-May  
820 of the following calendar year as part of the “Radioactive Effluent Release Report” filed with the  
821 US Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Vermont Public Service Department. Preliminary  
822 radioactive waste volume data available as of November 21, 2022 indicates that approximately  
823 300,000 cubic feet of radioactive waste was shipped from the Vermont Yankee site during 2022  
824 (similar to radioactive waste volumes shipped in 2020 and 2021). The total weight of the waste  
825 shipped in 2022 exceeds 19,000,000 pounds (>9,500 tons). The total radiological activity of the  
826 shipped waste is 11,100 Curies (somewhat lower than the 27,460 Curies shipped in 2021, but  
827 well up from 522.8 Curies and 126.8 Curies shipped in 2020 and 2019, respectively). All 2022  
828 calendar year radioactive waste shipments were sent to Waste Control Specialists’ (WCS)

829 disposal facility Andrews County, Texas. 152 radioactive waste shipments were made in 2022;  
830 122 of these were made via railcar. The remaining 30 shipments were made by truck.

831

832 Based on data provided by NorthStar in response to Panel questions in April 2021, the total  
833 activity of radioactive waste stored at the VT Yankee site is estimated as follows:

834

835 • Total activity stored at the VY Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI), consisting  
836 of 3880 spent fuel bundles stored in 58 spent fuel canisters: 117,176,000 Curies (roughly  
837 2,054,000 Curies per canister)

838

839 • The Greater Than Class C radioactive waste cask recently moved to the VY ISFSI contains  
840 approximately 175,000 Curies.

841

#### 842 IX.B Hazardous Waste Shipments Summary

843

844 • 6 tons of construction and demolition debris was shipped to the following facilities:

845 ○ Resource Waste Services, Salem, NH

846 • 74 cubic yards of asbestos was shipped to the following facilities:

847 ○ Minerva Landfill, Waynesburg, OH

848 ○ WMNH Tree, Rochester, NH

849 • 609,360 pounds of ferrous and non-ferrous scrap metal was shipped to the following  
850 facility for recycling:

851 ○ Mattuchio Scrap Metal, Everett, MA

852

#### 853 X. Vermont Congressional Delegation

854

855 While Vermont Congressional Delegation Staff did not formally speak at any NDCAP Full Panel or  
856 NDCAP Federal Nuclear Waste Policy Committee meetings during 2022, Staff from Senator  
857 Bernie Sanders' and Congressman Peter Welch's Offices have kept Panel Leadership apprised of  
858 DOE and NRC activities and publications of potential interest to the Panel. Most of these  
859 communications have come from Rebecca Ellis and Alex Piper of Congressman Welch's Office  
860 and Haley Pero of Senator Sanders' Office.

861

862 Communications with Congressman Welch's Office were especially helpful in arranging for Mr.  
863 Oliver Edelson from California Congressman Mike Levin's Office to speak at the Federal Nuclear  
864 Waste Policy Committee's October 3 meeting regarding the activities of the Congressional Spent  
865 Nuclear Fuel Solutions Caucus. Details of this presentation are available in Section XI.B of this  
866 report.

867

868 Links to bills nuclear decommissioning and spent fuel policy related bills that Senator Sanders  
869 and Congressman Welch have either sponsored or supported are available through the NDCAP  
870 Federal Nuclear Waste Policy Committee webpage at:

871 <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/content/vt-ndcap-federal-nuclear-waste-policy>

872  
873 Following the announced retirement of Senator Patrick Leahy and the subsequent election of  
874 Congressman Welch as Vermont’s newest Senator, NDCAP will work to assure that  
875 communication between the Panel and Senator Sanders, Senator-Elect Welch, and  
876 Congresswomen-Elect Balint’s Offices continue to be a valuable information resource for Panel  
877 activities.

878  
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880

881 **XI. Current NDCAP Committees**

882

883 **XI.A NDCAP Issues Committee**

884

885 The Issues Committee, formed in 2015 and reconstituted in 2019, is intended to provide  
886 recommendations for topics to be discussed at meetings of the Full Panel. The Issues Committee  
887 did not meet during 2022. For 2022, the Issues Committee’s function (selection of meeting  
888 topics) was performed by the Full Panel at its regular meetings, with additional interactions  
889 between the Panel Chair and the State Nuclear Engineer as needed.

890

891 **XI.B NDCAP Federal Nuclear Waste Policy Committee**

892

893 NDCAP created the Federal Nuclear Waste Policy Committee in December 2020 as a means for  
894 the Panel to learn more about US national spent nuclear fuel storage and disposal issues. The  
895 Committee is developing recommendations on US nuclear waste policies for the Full Panel to  
896 consider as potential Advisory Opinions on these subjects. The Committee consists of the  
897 following Panel members: Lissa Weinmann (Committee Chair), Corey Daniels, Maddy Arms, and  
898 Marvin Resnikoff. No other Panel members attended any of the Committee’s meetings held in  
899 2022. The Committee is administered by State Nuclear Engineer Tony Leshinskie.

900

901 The Committee met 5 times in 2022, all via Teams webcast, to learn more about current US  
902 national spent nuclear fuel storage and disposal policies. Several of the Committee’s 2022  
903 meetings included guest speakers from individual nuclear waste policy stakeholders. Brief  
904 summaries for each meeting are included below. The Committee continued to compile a reading  
905 list of relevant materials. This list is available at the Committee’s webpage at:

906 <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/content/vt-ndcap-federal-nuclear-waste-policy>

907

908 This webpage also includes recordings of the individual Committee meetings.

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909

910 Through the course of 2022, the Committee built on its 2021 Calendar Year work. A summary of  
911 this earlier work is available at:  
912 [https://publicservice.vermont.gov/content/federal-nuclear-waste-policy-committee-rev-2-](https://publicservice.vermont.gov/content/federal-nuclear-waste-policy-committee-rev-2-draft-report)  
913 [draft-report](https://publicservice.vermont.gov/content/federal-nuclear-waste-policy-committee-rev-2-draft-report)

914

### 915 **January 31, 2022 Committee Meeting**

916 The Committee began the year by assessing the US Department of Energy's December 2021  
917 Request for Information (RFI) regarding the temporary, consolidated storage of spent nuclear  
918 fuel using a Consent-Based approach. This RFI is available at:  
919 [https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/12/01/2021-25724/notice-of-request-for-](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/12/01/2021-25724/notice-of-request-for-information-rfi-on-using-a-consent-based-siting-process-to-identify-federal)  
920 [information-rfi-on-using-a-consent-based-siting-process-to-identify-federal](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/12/01/2021-25724/notice-of-request-for-information-rfi-on-using-a-consent-based-siting-process-to-identify-federal)

921

922 Further details on this Consent Based Siting process are available at:  
923 <https://www.energy.gov/ne/consent-based-siting>

924

925 Based on discussions and public input from the January 31 meeting, the Committee drafted an  
926 Advisory Opinion that the Full Panel discussed at its February 28 meeting. The Committee's  
927 draft Opinion is available at:  
928 [https://publicservice.vermont.gov/content/vt-ndcap-draft-advisory-opinion-usdoe-consent-](https://publicservice.vermont.gov/content/vt-ndcap-draft-advisory-opinion-usdoe-consent-based-siting-request-information)  
929 [based-siting-request-information](https://publicservice.vermont.gov/content/vt-ndcap-draft-advisory-opinion-usdoe-consent-based-siting-request-information)

930

931 As noted in Section III, the Full Panel approved a version of this Advisory Opinion. The approved  
932 version is available in Appendix A.

933

### 934 **March 28, 2022 Committee Meeting**

935 At this meeting, representatives from Deep Isolation, Inc. outlined their proposed alternative for  
936 geologic spent fuel repositories. A Deep Isolation repository would store spent fuel in a series of  
937 horizontal drilled holes between 1 to 2 miles in depth, using current technology for oil drilling.  
938 The horizontal portion of each storage hole (where fuel assemblies would be stored) could be 2  
939 to 3 miles long. Individual repository holes would store fuel assemblies end-to-end, with up to  
940 200 fuel cannisters (individual fuel assemblies) per borehole. Further information on Deep  
941 Isolation's proposal is available at:  
942 <https://www.deepisolation.com/nuclear-waste-solutions/>

943

944 While most of Deep Isolation's research into this proposal assume a shale geology, other bore  
945 hole depths for other geologies can be determined. Much of Deep Isolation's current research is  
946 intended to establish site selection criteria

947

### 948 **May 23, 2022 Committee Meeting**

949 The May 23 meeting featured a presentation by representatives of Holtec International (Joy  
950 Russell and Kim Manzione), who provided an overview of its spent nuclear fuel storage systems  
951 used at Vermont Yankee. Aging management of these systems and proposed long-term spent



952 fuel storage was discussed, resulting in a lively questions and answers period. From the  
953 presentation and subsequent discussion, it was clear that efforts to qualify the spent fuel storage  
954 systems beyond their currently licensed 40-year use period remain under development. Holtec  
955 remains confident that the licensed use period for its spent fuel storage systems can be extended  
956 to as much as 100 years. Holtec's presentation slides provided for this meeting are available at:  
957 [https://publicservice.vermont.gov/content/holtec-spent-fuel-storage-aging-management-](https://publicservice.vermont.gov/content/holtec-spent-fuel-storage-aging-management-presentation-vt-ndcap-nuclear-waste-policy)  
958 [presentation-vt-ndcap-nuclear-waste-policy](https://publicservice.vermont.gov/content/holtec-spent-fuel-storage-aging-management-presentation-vt-ndcap-nuclear-waste-policy).

959

### 960 **October 3, 2022 Committee Meeting**

961 The October 3 meeting was devoted to a discussion with Mr. Oliver Edelson, Legislative Assistant  
962 to California Congressional Representative Mike Levin. Congressman Levin, whose district  
963 includes the actively decommissioning San Onofre Nuclear Generation Station, co-chairs the  
964 Congressional Spent Nuclear Fuel Solutions Caucus, which Mr. Edelson administers.

965

966 The meeting discussion outlined the Caucus' current efforts. Presently, the Caucus is focused on  
967 getting various sides in spent nuclear fuel policy debates to talk to each other. The US  
968 Congressional Representatives that comprise the Caucus are in a learning phase to better grasp  
969 spent fuel-related issues. As part of this, the Caucus has begun meeting with other organizations  
970 interested in nuclear waste policy issues.

971

972 Part of the meeting discussion touched on several proposed bills that would address spent fuel  
973 issues to some extent. The Sensible, Timely Relief for America's Nuclear Districts Economic  
974 Development (STRANDED) Act was mentioned as one option. The Increasing Nuclear Safety  
975 Protocols for Extended Canister Transfers (INSPECT) Act, which would require a Resident NRC  
976 Inspector at decommissioning nuclear power plants until all spent fuel has been removed from a  
977 site's spent fuel pool(s) was also discussed.

978

979 Mr. Edelson's presentation to the Committee is available at:

980 [https://publicservice.vermont.gov/content/presentation-congressional-spent-nuclear-fuel-](https://publicservice.vermont.gov/content/presentation-congressional-spent-nuclear-fuel-solutions-caucus)  
981 [solutions-caucus](https://publicservice.vermont.gov/content/presentation-congressional-spent-nuclear-fuel-solutions-caucus).

982 Links to the STRANDED and INSPECT bills are also available from the Committee website.

983

984 A key point to the meeting's discussion was that selecting a spent nuclear fuel repository site  
985 (regardless of whether an interim or permanent facility is being considered) is not quick work.  
986 Finland recently established its national spent fuel repository after a 35 year siting effort.  
987 Sweden, Switzerland and Canada have made recent progress following sustained (multi-year)  
988 siting efforts.

989

### 990 **December 5, 2022 Committee Meeting** *(To be finalized after the December 5 meeting)*

991 The December 5 meeting provided the Committee with an opportunity review its 2022 activities.  
992 Potential recommendations for changes in Federal nuclear waste policies were brainstormed.

993 The Committee agreed to consider the following items in future meetings as potential  
994 recommendations to the Full Panel:

- 995
- 996 • Recommendation #1
- 997 • Recommendation #2
- 998 • Recommendation #3
- 999

1000 The summary of Committee activities included in the VT NDCAP 2022 draft Annual Report was  
1001 reviewed and revised based on feedback from Committee members and members of the public  
1002 present at the meeting.

## 1003

### 1004 **XII. Meeting Schedule and Priorities for 2023**

1005

1006 During the Panel’s December 12 meeting, the Panel reached consensus on the following meeting  
1007 dates for 2023:

- 1008
- 1009 • January 10: Special Meeting for approval of the 2021 Annual Report
- 1010 • February 28: Tentative meeting for discussing potential filings in response to the US  
1011 Department of Energy’s Consent-Based Siting Request for Information
- 1012 • May 9: Regular meeting discussing and assessing the Decommissioning Project Annual  
1013 Status Reports (required by PUC Case 8880)
- 1014 • September 19: Regular meeting (agenda items to be determined)
- 1015 • December 12: Regular meeting (agenda items to be determined)
- 1016

1017 The Panel continues to consider improvements in its public outreach. As noted in the  
1018 September 19 and December 12 meeting summaries (see Section III), the Panel intends to use  
1019 parts of its new \$35,000 annual budget to improve its webcast / hybrid meeting capabilities, and  
1020 identify additional options for public outreach.

### 1021

### 1022 **XIII. Panel Composition and Duties Change Recommendations**

1023

1024 As part of the Panel Duties outlined in Part II of the Panel Charter (see Section II of this Report),  
1025 the Panel “shall assess further changes to the Panel’s membership or duties as appropriate.” The  
1026 most recent changes in Panel composition and duties are those approved by the 2021  
1027 Legislature in Act 54. The Panel currently has no additional change recommendations for its  
1028 composition or duties.

1029

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1030

1031 **Appendix A: Panel Advisory Opinions Approved in 2022**

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1032

1033 March 3, 2022

1034 US Department of Energy

1035 Office of Nuclear Energy

1036 1000 Independence Ave. SW

1037 Washington DC 20585

1038

1039 **Re: Comments on the U.S. Department of Energy ‘Request for Information on**  
1040 **Using a Consent-Based Siting Process to Identify Federal Interim Storage**  
1041 **Facilities’**

1042

1043 To Whom It May Concern:

1044

1045 The Vermont Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel submits the enclosed  
1046 comments (Advisory Opinion) in response to the Department’s December 2021  
1047 ‘Request for Information on Using a Consent-Based Siting Process to Identify Federal  
1048 Interim Storage Facilities.’ These comments were approved by the Panel at a Special  
1049 Meeting held on February 28. Presentations and other details from this meeting are  
1050 available at the Panel website: <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/electric/ndcap>.

1051

1052 Additionally, the Panel wishes to thank Dr. Kim Petry, Dr. Erica Bickford, Ms. Natalia  
1053 Saraeva and Mr. Rob Howard of the Department for their presentation and  
1054 supporting discussion at our February 28 meeting.

1055

1056 Thank-you for your consideration. We appreciate the opportunity to share these  
1057 comments with the Department and look forward to further interactions as the  
1058 Consent-Based Siting Process progresses.

1059

1060 Sincerely yours,

1061

1062

1063 /s/ Emily Davis

1064 Emily Davis, 2022 Panel Chair

1065 Vermont Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel

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**Advisory Opinion Adopted February 28, 2022**  
**Comments on the U.S. Department of Energy ‘Request for Information on Using  
a Consent-Based Siting Process to Identify Federal Interim Storage Facilities’**

**INTRODUCTION**

The Vermont Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel (VT NDCAP) appreciates the opportunity to share information and insights on ‘Using a Consent-Based Siting Process to Identify Federal Interim Storage Facilities’ and associated questions upon which the Department of Energy (DOE) seeks public input.

**BACKGROUND ON VT NDCAP**

The 19 member VT NDCAP was established by an act of the Vermont legislature in 2014. It includes six citizen members, two each to be appointed by the Governor, the Senate President Pro Tempore and the House Speaker, as well as representation from eleven additional Vermont Yankee decommissioning stakeholder organizations, including the plant owner and the town where the facility resides, to oversee decommissioning of the Vermont Yankee nuclear reactor, share information with and receive feedback from the public.

In December 2020, the VT NDCAP voted to establish a committee to learn more about nuclear spent fuel storage and disposal concerns. The resulting Federal Nuclear Waste Policy Committee (FNWPC) met monthly in 2021 and continues to meet, studies federal policy options for nuclear waste storage and considers how Vermont Yankee is situated within the national landscape. By methodically procuring input from Vermont’s federal delegation, industry experts and other stakeholders, the FNWPC accordingly advances the learning goals of VT NDCAP by sharing findings with the full Panel at regularly scheduled meetings. The Committee may recommend that the VT NDCAP adopt Committee-approved draft advisory language for the full VT NDCAP’s consideration and potential vote in order to fulfill the Panel’s stated purpose under Vermont law to: "advise the Governor, General Assembly, the agencies of the state, and the public on issues related to decommissioning."

Some individual VT NDCAP members plan to submit independent information to DOE that may reflect different perspectives on how the US should solve the problem of where and how to store the nation’s high level radioactive waste. The value of this document is that it reflects basic agreement among Committee members on the following points, voted on at a special session of the full VT NDCAP on February 28, 2022, a recording of which is available at:

<https://youtu.be/W7ZAHGUaD4M>

1103 **DOE RFI Area 3: Interim Storage as Part of a Waste Management System /**  
1104 **Questions: 3 and 4: To what extent should development of an interim storage**  
1105 **facility relate to progress on establishing a permanent repository? What other**  
1106 **issues should DOE consider in developing a waste management system?**

1107 In 2015, the Congress authorized a two-year consent-based siting process for the general siting for  
1108 nuclear waste disposal facilities that was not limited to ‘interim’ sites. The process to date has not  
1109 resulted in a successful siting of any waste disposal facilities. VT NDCAP believes management of  
1110 the nation’s nuclear waste management system must not depend upon inconsistent congressional  
1111 appropriations.

1112 VT NDCAP recommends that development of a consolidated interim storage facility (CISF) should  
1113 remain directly coupled to establishing a permanent repository as required under the Nuclear Waste  
1114 Policy Act. In developing an integrated waste management system, VT NDCAP believes that DOE  
1115 and the Administration should focus on amending existing law rather than relying on agency  
1116 rulemaking.

1117 Appropriate geomorphology and geohydrology of potential site selection for a permanent  
1118 repository should be a limiting and qualifying factor in any consent-based siting. Prioritizing  
1119 locations with sound environmental suitability will likely aid in establishing public acceptance and  
1120 trust to obtain consent-based siting. With proper planning, moving high level radioactive waste  
1121 from independent fuel storage installations (ISFSIs) should only happen one time. Any CISF(s) to  
1122 be constructed and operated should ideally be sited at or in close proximity to a location that is also  
1123 acceptable and approved for a permanent deep geologic repository. Any CISF or permanent  
1124 repository should be subject to the same EPA standards other energy producers must adhere to.

1125 Further, asking a community to consent to act as an ‘interim’ site in the absence of any progress  
1126 toward a permanent site will continue to undermine confidence in the DOE ‘consent-based siting’  
1127 process.

1128 The VT NDCAP supports the application of the consent-based siting process to any previously  
1129 designated high level radioactive waste disposal or storage sites.

1130

1131 **DOE RFI, Area 2: Removing Barriers to Meaningful Participation / Question 5:**  
1132 **What information do communities, governments, or other stakeholders need to**  
1133 **engage with the Department on consent-based siting of federal interim storage**  
1134 **facilities?**

1135 Communities, governments, local stakeholders, and the nation at large need more information  
1136 before deciding on the best course of a functioning integrated nuclear waste management system.  
1137 The Nuclear Regulatory Commission says such waste is safely and securely stored at its current  
1138 location. An independent and comprehensive economic analysis from the Congressional Budget  
1139 Office or General Accounting Office on options for nuclear waste should inform how to proceed.

1140 All public comments received in DOE's 2015 to 2017 Consent-Based Siting effort should be  
1141 available for public review and be considered as part of the DOE's current Request for Information.

1142

1143 **ADVISORY OPINION VOTING RECORD**

1144 **PANEL MEMBERS VOTING YES**

1145 Madeline Arms (Town of Vernon); Todd Amato (Town of Vernon); Chris Campany (Windham Regional  
1146 Commission); Sara Coffey (Citizen Appointee); Emily Davis (Citizen Appointee & Panel Chair); Marvin  
1147 Resnikoff, Ph.D. (Citizen Appointee); Lissa Weinmann (Citizen Appointee & FNWPC Chair).

1148

1149 **PANEL MEMBERS VOTING NO**

1150 None.

1151

1152 **PANEL MEMBERS VOTING TO ABSTAIN**

1153 Corey Daniels (NorthStar Vermont Yankee); David Pearson (NorthStar Vermont Yankee);  
1154 Jim Porter (VT Public Service Department Designee).

1155

1156 **PANEL MEMBERS ABSENT FOR THIS VOTE**

1157 Trish Coppolino (VT Agency of Natural Resources); Dr. Bill Irwin (VT Agency of Human Services); Bob  
1158 Leach (Citizen Appointee); Brett Long (VT Agency of Commerce and Community Development); Mark  
1159 MacDonald (Vermont Senate); Laura Sibilila (Vermont Legislature); Josh Unruh (Citizen Appointee &  
1160 Panel Vice-Chair).

1161

1162 *There are currently two vacancies on the Panel.*

1163 **END**

1164