

MEETING MINUTES – Approved 12/18/2014

Meeting Minutes for Third
Vermont Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel (NDCAP) Meeting
Marlboro College Center for Graduate and Professional Studies (Room 2-E)
28 Vernon St, Brattleboro, VT
November 20, 2014

NDCAP Members Attending the Meeting:

- David Mears, Commissioner of Environmental Conservation, designee for the Secretary of Natural Resources (Panel Chair for this Meeting)
- Pat Moulton, Secretary of Commerce and Community Development, ex officio
- Dr. William Irwin, designee for the Secretary of Human Services
- VT State Senator Mark MacDonald, member of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Energy
- VT State Representative Michael Hebert, member of the House Committee on Natural Resources & Energy
- Stephen Skibniowsky, representing the Town of Vernon
- Kate O'Connor (Brattleboro), citizen appointee of Governor Shumlin
- Martin Langeveld (Vernon), citizen appointee of Governor Shumlin
- James Matteau (Westminster), citizen appointee of Senate President Pro Tempore John Campbell
- Derrick Jordan (Putney), citizen appointee of Speaker of the House Shap Smith
- Christopher J. Wamsler, Site Vice-President, Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee (VY)
- T. Michael Twomey, Vice-President External Affairs, Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee
- David Andrews, International Brotherhood of Electric Workers (IBEW); representing present & former employees of Vermont Yankee
- NH State Senator Molly Kelly (Keane, NH), representing the Towns of Chesterfield, Hinsdale, Richmond, Swanzey, and Winchester, New Hampshire.
- MA State Representative Paul W. Mark (Peru, MA), representing the Towns of Bernardston, Colrain, Gill, Greenfield, Leyden, Northfield, and Warwick, Massachusetts.
- Susan McMahon, Associate Director of the Windham Regional Commission (WRC) attending in lieu of Chris Company, WRC Executive Director & Panel Vice-Chair (unavailable due to prior WRC commitment)

The following NDCAP member was absent from the meeting, but connected to the meeting via teleconference (GoToWebinar.com); however his participation was limited by connectivity issues:

- VT State Representative David Deen (Westminster), citizen appointee of Speaker of the House Shap Smith

The following NDCAP members were absent from the meeting:

- Christopher Recchia, Commissioner of Public Service, ex officio; Panel Chair (unavailable due to travel on state business)
- James Tonkovich (of Wilder), citizen appointee of Senate President Pro Tempore John Campbell (unavailable due to commitment at another public meeting)

Note: A video recording of this meeting is available through Brattleboro Community Television (BCTV) at the following web address:

<http://brattleborotv.org/vt-nuclear-decommissioning-citizens-advisory-panel/vt-ndcap-112014-mtg>

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This video may also be accessed via a link at:

http://publicservice.vermont.gov/topics/electric/nuclear#nuclear_issues

All items noted in these Minutes as being available online at the Public Service Department (PSD) website may be found at this web address.

Status of Post Shutdown Decommissioning Activities Report (PSDAR) & Site Assessment Study (SAS) Review by State Agencies

Commissioner David Mears made a presentation on the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) review of the PSDAR & the SAS to date. In summary, the presentation indicated that the technical information provided in the PSDAR & SAS is meeting the expectations of ANR. This presentation is available online at the PSD website.

Panel Comments & Questions on PSDAR & SAS

The initial questions on the PSDAR focused on the schedule announced in the press release for public comment. State Nuclear Engineer Tony Leshinski reported the stated 11/25 deadline in the press release was to allow for public comments to be incorporated into comments provided by several state agencies, as well as allow Entergy an opportunity to address the comments in the PSDAR draft they will send to the NRC by the end of the year. Several panelists and the State Nuclear Engineer reiterated that public comments would be accepted through the end of the 60 comment period (December 17). Entergy (Panelist Mike Twomey) verbally committed that they would not submit the PSDAR to the NRC prior to the next NDCAP meeting (December 18). This will allow for additional discussion of the PSDAR & SAS at a second meeting. Entergy also stated that they still intended to submit the PSDAR to the NRC before the end of the year.

Review & Approval of October Meeting Minutes

Prior to discussing further Panel business items, the Panel was reminded that it needed to review & approve the minutes of the October 30 meeting. The Panel was also reminded that for its first several meetings, the custom would be for the Panelist to briefly introduce themselves. As part of these introductions, State Senator Mark MacDonald noted that he just recently learned that he was on the Panel.

During review of the minutes, several Panelists commented on the fairly high level of detail in the minutes. While the level of detail was appreciated and regarded as good note taking (as well as a being useful for creating the Panel's annual report to the Governor and the Legislature's Energy Committees), it was also noted that meeting minutes are not intended to be meeting transcripts.

Commissioner Mears called for a Motion to approve the Minutes of the last meeting. Secretary Moulton made a motion to approve the minutes as presented and seconded by Representative Mike Hebert. The posted meeting minutes were approved by yeas and nays with no nays heard.

Report from Panel Charter & Governance Committee

A brief discussion of the Governance committee's work on the Panel Charter occurred. Primarily this discussion indicated that the Committee had addressed Panel email comments on the Charter and had revised the draft. The Committee indicated that the current Charter draft had been e-mailed to all Panelists. Panelists were requested to review the draft before the December meeting for further discussion then. It was also noted that the Governance Committee was awaiting an opinion from the Secretary of State's Office on whether Governance Committee meetings qualified as Public Meetings under VT's Open Meeting Law. In subsequent discussion it was noted that Designees should attend meetings if at all possible and not take their role lightly by sending alternates when not absolutely necessary.

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Open Comment Period on PSDAR & SAS

Subsequent Panel & Public questions on the PSDAR & SAS voiced concerns on:

- 1) The cost of the site clean-up (were cost estimates in SAS accurate)?
- 2) Being that there will be 2 spent fuel storage facilities and several VELCO switchyards will remain on-site, is there realistically any chance that the site will be redeveloped for any other purpose?
- 3) Will VY's decommissioning be a first of a kind effort?
- 4) What monitoring of on-site contamination is being done?
- 5) Requests to assure that the site would be cleaned to a "green field" standard were made by several panel members and one member of the public
- 6) One member of the public requested that the Panel & Entergy consider long-term fuel storage options other than dry cask systems. She regarded European solutions to spent fuel storage facilities as being less vulnerable to attack and hoped that Entergy's use of Holtec International dry casks was "not a done deal."

Panel discussion on Item #1 indicated that the clean-up estimates were subject to change – some clean-up details will not be known until some structures at the VY site are taken down.

Subsequent Panel discussion for Items #2 & #3 indicated that other nuclear power plants in the US, including 2 (actually 3) in New England, have completed decommissioning. Each plant decommissioning is unique. While previous efforts will provide experience to be drawn upon, there likely is not a single previous effort that VY's decommissioning can use as a guide. Additionally for Item 2, several Entergy officials in the audience noted that there had been a few former nuclear power plants that had been repurposed to other power generation facilities.

In response to Item #4, Dr. Bill Irwin & Commissioner Mears detailed several of the monitoring programs that have been conducted (and are continuing) at the VY site. In response to Item #5, Mike Twomey noted that one of the reasons for the SAS was to facilitate discussions on appropriate clean-up standards. Dr. Irwin added that the SAS is precedent-setting in that no other US nuclear power plant has ever produced such a product so early in the decommissioning process.

Review of Decisions &, Select Next Month's Agenda Items

The Panel briefly brainstormed for Agenda items at future meetings. Items suggested throughout the meeting were collected into a list. David Mears committed to meet with Chris Recchia and the State Nuclear Engineer at a later date to formulate the Agenda for the December meeting. Items noted as possible December Meeting items:

- Follow-up discussion on NDCAP Charter
- Opportunity for additional Panel / Public comments on PSDAR & SAS
- Possible NRC Presentation on PSDAR
- Spent Fuel Storage issues
- Dry Cask Design
- Select Items for Report to VT Governor & VT House / Senate Energy Committees (due mid-January)
- Select date for at least January 2015 meeting (may want to set several dates, as was done at September meeting)
- Select date for Election of Chair & Vice-Chair
- Select date for Panel Site Tour

Meeting adjourned at ~8:25 PM.