

1 Vermont Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel (VT NDCAP)
2 Issues Committee Meeting Notes
3 Monday, April 13, 2020 (12:00 to 1:00 PM)
4 Microsoft Teams Teleconference
5

6 An audio / webcast recording of this meeting is available at:

7 <https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/cd7e9a2c-0daa-410a-86b3-82f0c0b7132d>
8

9 *Note: These meeting notes were compiled by Tony Leshinskie. They will be reviewed and*
10 *revised as necessary by the VT NDCAP Members who attended the April 13 meeting.*
11

12 VT NDCAP Members Present:

- 13 • **Josh Unruh**, *Citizen Appointee of Governor Phil Scott, Panel Chair*
- 14 • **Lissa Weinmann** (Brattleboro), *citizen appointee of Senate President Pro Tempore Tim Ashe,*
15 *Panel Vice-Chair*
- 16 • **Chris Company**, *Executive Director of the Windham Regional Commission (WRC)*
- 17 • **Corey Daniels**, *ISFSI Senior Manager, NorthStar Vermont Yankee (VY)*
- 18 • **David Pearson**, *Vice-President and Regional Manager, NorthStar Group Services*
- 19 • **VT State Representative Laura Sibilia**, *Member of the House Committee on Energy &*
20 *Technology*
- 21 • **VT State Representative Sara Coffey** (Guilford), *Citizen Appointee of Speaker of the House*
22 *Mitzi Johnson*
- 23 • **Madeline Arms**, *Representative for the Town of Vernon*
24

25 The following VT NDCAP Issues Committee member was absent:

- 26 • **Bob Leach** (Brattleboro), *citizen appointee of Governor Phil Scott*
27

28 The following Vermont State Employees were present:

- 29 • **Tony Leshinskie**, *Vermont State Nuclear Engineer (VT Public Service Department), meeting*
30 *facilitator*
- 31 • **Eric Guzman**, *VT Public Service Department Special Counsel*
32

33 The following members of the public were present:

- 34 • **Chris Williams**, *Citizens Awareness Network*
- 35 • **Susan Smallheer**, *The Brattleboro Reformer*
36

37 The meeting convened at 12:01 PM.
38

1 **Discussion of Potential May 4, 2020 Panel Meeting Agenda Items:**

2 Tony Leshinskie provided an initial list of likely meeting agenda items for consideration. This list
3 is available at:

4 <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/content/potential-may-4-2020-agenda-items>

5
6 Tony briefly discussed the items on the list, noting that he compiled it based on notes from
7 previous VT NDCAP and Issues Committee meetings discussions. The time estimates for the
8 agenda items were his first guesses. He asked for any additions or deletions to the list as well
9 as any changes in the item time estimates.

10

11 This potential agenda items were reviewed by the Panel members present. Corey Daniels
12 noted that Orano would likely not need a separate agenda item to discuss its reactor vessel
13 segmentation activities. This could be discussed as part of NorthStar’s activities update. 15
14 minutes will be sufficient to discuss current activities at the VT Yankee site.

15

16 In response to a question from Tony Leshinskie, Eric Guzman indicated that neither Department
17 of Health nor the Attorney General’s Office have indicated whether they would be available at
18 the May 4 meeting to discuss any evaluations their agencies have done on NorthStar’s 2019
19 Project Status Summary. (Department of Health may be unavailable for the meeting due to the
20 COVID-19 pandemic; no Attorney General’s Office action has been required in response to VT
21 Yankee activities during 2019.) Eric indicated that Jim Porter, Director of PSD Public Advocacy,
22 would reach out to these agencies regarding their May 4 availability.

23

24 Some discussion of Item 12, “Status Report on VT NDCAP Legislation,” ensued. Laura Sibilias
25 noted that the bill resulting from VT NDCAP’s January and February meetings was passed by the
26 VT House. The bill was read to the Senate and referred to the Senate Finance Committee for
27 consideration. It was noted that all of this happened prior to the COVID-19 state of emergency.
28 Laura Sibilias and Sara Coffey indicated that the bill may not “make it to the Senate’s Urgent
29 pile” of items to be acted upon. Much of the Legislature’s focus since early March has been on
30 bills related to pandemic response. Lissa Weinmann suggested that the Panel should request
31 that the VT NDCAP bill be expedited. Several additional suggestions to help move the bill
32 through the Senate were suggested, such as a meeting between Rep. Sibilias and Senator Mark
33 MacDonald (who is also on VT NDCAP) or Lissa Weinmann reaching out to Senate Pro Temp Tim
34 Ashe (who appointed Lissa to VT NDCAP). Tony Leshinskie noted that these items could be
35 discussed further with the “Status Report on VT NDCAP Legislation” agenda item on May 4.

36

37 It was agreed that the initial list of agenda items was complete for the May 4 meeting. (No
38 agenda items needed to be added; other than the Orano presentation item, no items should be

1 removed.) Concern was raised though that it was a rather full agenda, particularly considering
2 that the meeting will need to be done online rather than in-person. (Using the upper estimates
3 on agenda items timing, the meeting could run for 3 hours, 15 minutes.) It was requested that
4 meeting materials, such as prior meeting minutes, be made available well before the meeting
5 to allow Panelists to review them in advanced of the meeting. This should help to streamline
6 the meeting as much as possible. Tony Leshinskie indicated that he would send out reminders
7 to the Panelists that meeting minutes were currently available on the NDCAP website
8 (<https://publicservice.vermont.gov/electric/ndcap>). Additionally, he is planning to have most, if
9 not all, May 4 meeting material available online between April 27 and April 30 (with the earlier
10 date being the desired target, the latter the absolute deadline).

11

12 **May 4 Meeting Logistics**

13 Discussion segued to logistics for the May 4 meeting. Tony Leshinskie indicated that he was
14 looking at several online meeting software options. His preference is to use Skype, but he
15 noted that the Public Service Department was transitioning to Microsoft Teams for online
16 meetings. At least one Committee member expressed dissatisfaction with Teams (an audible
17 “ugh”). Tony noted that he will be discussing online meeting options with BCTV (who will be
18 recording the meeting) since they are working with other boards for recording / broadcasting
19 their online public meetings. Tony is hoping that livestreaming the meeting on BCTV is a
20 possibility.

21

22 Chris Campany recommended that, whatever platform is used, that Tony have control over
23 muting lines and who can speak when. A “raise hand” option to request speaking is needed.
24 Tony indicated that he is looking into that and that these are typical options in the platforms he
25 has used previously. Chris also noted that Skype has been used for Vermont Emergency
26 Management briefings in which roughly 200 participants are connected to the same webcast.
27 Tony indicated he would prefer to use Skype. However, he needs to confirm whether it will be
28 available to him on May 4. (Its use is being phased-out as part of the transition to MS Teams.)

29

30 **Potential Topics for Future VT NDCAP Meetings**

31 The initial list of likely meeting agenda items also included several items for discussion at future
32 VT NDCAP meetings, namely:

- 33 • Status Report from Congressional Delegation Staff
- 34 • Discussions on specific Congressional decommissioning / spent fuel proposals
- 35 • Report from Texas-Vermont Low Level Radioactive Waste Compact Commission

36

37 Tony Leshinskie noted that the second item in this list was intended to be an extension of the
38 “Panel Pursuit of National Decommissioning & Spent Fuel Issues” item included in the list of

1 potential May 4 meeting agenda topics. The Committee agreed that these were reasonable
2 additional meeting topics. Additional future agenda topics were suggested by the Committee
3 members, namely:

- 4 • Have Jim Hamilton make a presentation regarding work being done by the Nuclear
5 Decommissioning Collaborative. It was noted that the Collaborative could become a voice
6 representing communities with decommissioning power plants in the national discussion on
7 decommissioning and spent fuel disposal issues.
- 8 • Have NorthStar and WCS discuss their efforts in moving legislation forward on national
9 decommissioning & spent fuel-related issues.

10

11 The Committee discussed whether it was appropriate to have Jim Hamilton speak to VT NDCAP
12 since he is also working for NorthStar on community outreach issues. Concern was voiced that
13 a recent “stakeholders survey” that he worked on was not accepted by State Agencies due to its
14 lack of detail. Corey Daniels noted that the survey in question was done at NorthStar’s request
15 and that the State, namely the Public Service Department (PSD), had requested that the results
16 be made public. A limited portion of the survey was forwarded to PSD. The entire survey was
17 not released because portions of it dealt with information that NorthStar deems as confidential.
18 After additional discussion, the Committee agreed that it was worthwhile to have Jim Hamilton
19 speak on the Nuclear Decommissioning Collaborative’s efforts.

20

21 In additional discussion, several Committee members expressed interest in having VT NDCAP
22 engage more closely with Vermont Congressional Delegation staff. A question was also raised
23 regarding whether the J.F. Lehman Company was looking to sell NorthStar and WCS. Both
24 Corey Daniels and David Pearson noted that they were unaware of any potential sale. Tony
25 Leshinskie added that in his monitoring of nuclear power industry trends, he has not seen any
26 reports regarding a potential NorthStar / WCS sale.

27

28 **Public Comments**

29 None.

30

31 **Other Business**

32 None.

33

34 **Adjournment**

35 The meeting adjourned at 12:56 PM.