

1 **Vermont Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel (VT NDCAP)**
2 **Issues Committee Meeting Notes**
3 **Thursday, November 21, 2019 (5:30 to 6:45 PM)**
4 **Vernon Elementary School Art Room**
5 **381 Governor Hunt Road, Vernon, VT**
6

7 *Note: These meeting notes were compiled by Tony Leshinskie. They will be reviewed and*
8 *revised as necessary by the VT NDCAP Members who attended the November 21 meeting.*
9

10 VT NDCAP Members Present:

- 11 • **Josh Unruh**, *Citizen Appointee of Governor Phil Scott, Panel Chair*
- 12 • **Lissa Weinmann** (*Brattleboro*), *citizen appointee of Senate President Pro Tempore Tim Ashe,*
13 *Panel Vice-Chair*
- 14 • **Michael Root**, *representing the Town of Vernon, VT*
- 15 • **Derrick Jordan** (*Putney*), *citizen appointee of House Speaker Mitzi Johnson*
- 16 • **David Pearson**, *Vice-President and Regional Manager, NorthStar Group Services*
- 17 • **VT State Representative Sara Coffey** (*Guilford*), *Citizen Appointee of Speaker of the House*
18 *Mitzi Johnson*

19
20 The following VT NDCAP Issues Committee members were absent:

- 21 • **Chris Campany**, *Executive Director of the Windham Regional Commission (WRC)*
- 22 • **Corey Daniels**, *ISFSI Senior Manager, NorthStar Vermont Yankee (VY)*
- 23 • **Bob Leach** (*Brattleboro*), *citizen appointee of Governor Phil Scott*

24
25 The following Vermont State Employee was present:

- 26 • Tony Leshinskie, *Vermont State Nuclear Engineer (VT Public Service Department)*

27
28 No members of the public were present for this Issues Committee meeting.
29

30 The meeting convened at 5:35 PM.
31

32 **Discussion of December 2019 Panel Meeting Agenda Items:**

33 Tony Leshinskie provided an initial list of likely December meeting agenda items for
34 consideration:

- 35 1. Welcome, Opening Remarks & Overview of Meeting Agenda; Amendments to Agenda (5
36 minutes)
- 37 2. Introduction of Panelists (5 minutes)
- 38 3. Review & Approval of October Meeting Minutes (5 minutes)
- 39 4. NorthStar update on recent activities at Vermont Yankee (10-15 minutes)

- 1 5. State Agencies' Update on VY Decommissioning (10-15 minutes)
- 2 6. Panel Questions on NorthStar & State Agencies Reports (10 minutes)
- 3 7. Public Questions on NorthStar & State Agencies Reports (10 minutes)
- 4 8. Early General Comments Period (10 minutes)
- 5 9. Break (5 minutes)
- 6 10. Realigning Panel Composition and Duties (30-minute Panel Discussion)
- 7 11. Public Comments on Panel Composition and Duties Realignment (20 minutes)
- 8 12. Draft Annual Report Status (10 minutes)
- 9 13. Scheduling 2020 Meetings (10 minutes)

10

11 This list of potential agenda items was reviewed by the Panel members present. General
12 consensus was reached that these items were reasonable to include in the December meeting
13 agenda. Additional discussion resulted in Item 10, "Realigning Panel Composition and Duties,"
14 being reworded as "Updating Statute Defining Panel Duties, Composition and Funding." One
15 additional agenda item was suggested: a discussion on whether the Panel should advocate for
16 national solutions for nuclear decommissioning-related problems. However, after additional
17 discussion the Panel members present agreed that this item should be discussed at a future VT
18 NDCAP meeting rather than the December 2019 meeting.

19

20 The resulting December 5 meeting agenda has been posted online at:

21 <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/content/final-agenda-12-05-2019>.

22

23 **Panel Change Topics Referred Back to Issues Committee:**

24 The Panel Members present then discussed several potential changes to VT NDCAP's enabling
25 legislation that were referred to the Issues Committee for clarification during the October 16,
26 2019 meeting of the Full Panel, namely:

27

- 28 • The need for additional Town of Vernon representation on the Panel.
- 29 • Whether the Panel's duties should include discussing economic redevelopment of the
30 Vermont Yankee site and the economic impacts of the plant closure generally (which are
31 not currently defined duties in the Legislation that established the Panel).
- 32 • Potential elimination of the State Agency of Commerce and Community Development
33 (ACCD) representation on the Panel. (Adding local economic development agencies in
34 lieu of ACCD representation was one suggested alternative).
- 35 • The need for changes in the Panel's funding source.

36

37 To support this discussion, Tony Leshinskie provided hard copies of VT NDCAP documents:

- 38 • The current wording of the legislation that created VT NDCAP (18 VSA 1700-1702). This
39 document is available online at: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/fullchapter/18/034>.

- 1 • The current version of the VT NDCAP Charter, which is available online at:
2 <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/electric/ndcap>
- 3 • A summary of potential Panel changes compiled from the July 24, 2019 Issues
4 Committee meeting. This summary was previously compiled for the October 16, 2019
5 VT NDCAP meeting is available online at:
6 <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/electric/ndcap>
- 7 • A mark-up of 18 VSA 1700-1702 containing notes for potential changes derived from
8 October 16, 2019 meeting discussion. This mark-up is available at
9 <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/electric/ndcap> as part of the “Issues Committee
10 Meeting of November 21, 2019” meeting material.

11
12 Discussion of these items overlapped to some extent. The Committee reached consensus on
13 the following items:

14
15 The Need for Additional Town of Vernon Representation on the Panel

16 The Panel Members present agreed that it was reasonable to recommend adding one
17 additional Town of Vernon representative to the Panel. The representative from International
18 Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) can be eliminated to “make room” for this
19 appointment. IBEW members no longer work at the Vermont Yankee site. (The IBEW position
20 on VT NDCAP has been vacant since October 2018.)

21
22 Lissa Weinmann expressed concern that eliminating the IBEW representation on VT NDCAP
23 could adversely impact the well-being of Vermont Yankee workers. In response Tony Leshinskie
24 and David Pearson outlined several options available to Vermont Yankee workers for expressing
25 safety or other concerns. These include 1) the onsite Corrective Actions Program, 2) the
26 Employee Concerns Program and 3) the option of directly contacting the Nuclear Regulatory
27 Commission.

28
29 Should VT NDCAP Duties Include Vermont Yankee Site Economic Redevelopment and Plant
30 Closure Impact

31 The Panel Members present each outlined their thoughts on this matter. It was generally
32 agreed that redevelopment of the Vermont Yankee site is a matter for the site owners
33 (NorthStar) and the Town of Vernon. The primary purpose of the Panel is to facilitate public
34 comments on Vermont Yankee Decommissioning. There are other, more meaningful options
35 for discussing redevelopment at the site (e.g. town and regional planning, etc.). Based on this
36 consensus, the Panel Members present recommended that the Panel duties NOT include any
37 specific site economic redevelopment / plant closure language.

1 Elimination of ACCD Representation on the VT NDCAP

2 The Panel Members present agreed that Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community
3 Development representation on the Panel should continue to assure that site redevelopment
4 topics can be discussed, if later deemed necessary.
5

6 A brief discussion of whether other decommissioned power plant sites have been redeveloped
7 ensued. This included the potential for a partial site release (which has recently occurred at the
8 Fort Calhoun site currently undergoing decommissioning). David Pearson noted that NorthStar
9 is not currently pursuing such at this time. Tony Leshinskie noted that to his knowledge, the
10 only former nuclear power plant sites within the United States that have seen redevelopment
11 are Rancho Seco (in California) and Fort St. Vrain (in Colorado). Some of the Rancho Seco site
12 infrastructure now supports a solar power station. Fort St. Vrain is now a natural gas-fired
13 turbine power station that uses the former nuclear power plant turbine for additional
14 generating capacity.
15

16 Changing VT NDCAP's Funding Source

17 Currently, expenses incurred in holding Panel meetings (e.g. site rental fees, video recording of
18 meetings, eligible Panelist per diems) are paid by the Vermont Public Service Department. No
19 specific budget is appropriated by the Vermont Legislature for VT NDCAP. The Panel Members
20 present briefly discussed whether a recommendation for a line item in the State Budget was
21 appropriate. However, several of the Panel Members felt that more information on the Panel's
22 expenses to date were needed. The Public Service Department bills its incurred expenses to
23 the in-state companies that it regulates. This includes NorthStar. David Pearson indicated he
24 would attempt to compile expenses billed to NorthStar. Tony Leshinskie noted that in mid-
25 2018, the Public Service Department attempted to quantify its incurred VT NDCAP expenses
26 since the Panel's initial meeting in 2014. He will see about making the summary available to
27 the Panel.
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29 Tony Leshinskie indicated he will update the mark-up of 18 VSA 1700-1702 based on tonight's
30 discussions and make it available to the Full Panel for its December 5 Meeting.
31

32 **Public Comments**

33 None.
34

35 **Other Business**

36 Tony Leshinskie provided a draft of the Meeting Warning expected to be published by the
37 Public Service Department in advanced of the December 5 Panel meeting. The draft was
38 deemed acceptable without changes.

- 1
- 2 **Adjournment**
- 3 The meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM.