

1 **Approved 09.19.2022**

2 **Vermont Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel (VT NDCAP)**

3 **Monday, May 9, 2022**

4 **Zoom Webcast**

5 **Meeting Minutes**

6
7 VT NDCAP Members Present (via webcast):

- 8 • **Emily Davis**, *Citizen Appointee of former Senate President Pro Tempore Tim Ashe, Panel*
9 *Chair*
- 10 • **Jim Porter**, *Director of Public Advocacy, Public Service Department, designee for Public*
11 *Service Commissioner June Tierney for this meeting*
- 12 • **Lissa Weinmann** (*Brattleboro*), *Citizen Appointee of Senate President Pro Tempore Becca*
13 *Balint, VT NDCAP Federal Nuclear Waste Policy Committee Chair*
- 14 • **Madeline Arms**, *First Representative for the Town of Vernon*
- 15 • **Corey Daniels**, *Senior ISFSI Manager, NorthStar Vermont Yankee*
- 16 • **Bill Irwin**, *Radiological & Toxicological Sciences Program Chief, Designee for the*
17 *Secretary of Human Services*
- 18 • **David Pearson**, *Vice-President and Regional Manager, NorthStar Group Services*
- 19 • **Marvin Resnikoff**, *Citizen Appointee of former Speaker of the House Mitzi Johnson*
- 20 • **Bob Leach**, *Citizen Appointee of Governor Phil Scott (joined meeting after presentations*
21 *to the Panel had begun)*

22 The following NDCAP members were absent from the meeting:

- 23 • **Josh Unruh**, *Citizen Appointee of Governor Phil Scott, Panel Vice-Chair*
- 24 • **Todd Amato**, *Second Representative for the Town of Vernon*
- 25 • **Chris Campany**, *Executive Director of the Windham Regional Commission (WRC)*
- 26 • **VT State Representative Sara Coffey** (*Guilford*), *Citizen Appointee of former Speaker of*
27 *the House Mitzi Johnson*
- 28 • **Trish Coppolino**, *Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Waste Management*
29 *and Prevention Division Environmental Program Manager, Designee for the Secretary of*
30 *Natural Resources*
- 31 • **Brett Long**, *Deputy Commissioner of Economic Development, Designee for the Secretary*
32 *of Commerce and Community Development*
- 33 • **VT State Senator Mark MacDonald**, *Member of the Senate Committee on Natural*
34 *Resources and Energy*
- 35 • **VT State Representative Laura Sibilgia**, *Member of the House Committee on Energy &*
36 *Technology*

37
38 There are currently two vacancies on the Panel (the optional representatives from Massachusetts and
39 New Hampshire, respectively).

40
41 The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM; a recording of the meeting webcast is available online at
42 <http://publicservice.vermont.gov/electric/ndcap> and at

1 [https://www.brattleborotv.org/vt-nuclear-decommissioning-citizens-advisory-panel/vt-ndcap-5922-](https://www.brattleborotv.org/vt-nuclear-decommissioning-citizens-advisory-panel/vt-ndcap-5922-mtg)
2 [mtg.](https://www.brattleborotv.org/vt-nuclear-decommissioning-citizens-advisory-panel/vt-ndcap-5922-mtg)
3

4 **Welcome, Opening Remarks & Overview of Meeting Agenda:**

5 Panel Chair Emily Davis briefly welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the planned agenda
6 (mostly status reports on Vermont Yankee’s decommissioning activities). A Panel Roll call was
7 conducted to confirm a quorum. The Panelists present briefly introduced themselves during the roll call.
8 With 8 Panelists initially connected to the Zoom webcast, a quorum was not initially present (9 Panelists
9 required). Emily suggested that, to make the best use of the scheduled meeting time, that the meeting
10 continue with the planned presentations for this evening. Hearing no objections to this proposal, the
11 meeting continued.
12

13 Approximately 12 members of the public (not including 4 Panel Staff members) connected to the
14 webcast.
15

16 **Amendments to the Meeting Agenda:** A copy of the meeting agenda is available at
17 <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/content/meeting-agenda-05-09-2022>.

18 After briefly consulting with the Public Service Department attorneys present (Jim Porter and Eric
19 Guzman), it was agreed that without a quorum the Panel could still receive the report presentations
20 scheduled for this evening. However, no votes could occur. Accordingly, the Review and Approval of
21 Minutes for the December 6, 2021, January 10, 2022, and February 28, 2022 Meetings was tabled.
22

23 **NorthStar Update on VY Site Decommissioning Activities**

24 *NorthStar’s presentation begins at 0:06:53 in the meeting video.* Panel Member Corey Daniels,
25 NorthStar Senior ISFSI (spent fuel storage) Manager at Vermont Yankee, presented a summary of recent
26 site decommissioning activities. The slides for this presentation are available at:
27 <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/electric/ndcap> in the “Meeting of May 9, 2022” section.
28

29 NorthStar has reached over 1,300,000 person hours without an OSHA Recordable Lost Time Accident
30 since starting decommissioning work in January 2019. The project goal continues to be to complete the
31 project with zero Lost Time Accidents. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has issued no cited
32 violations, nor have there been any non-cited violations, for the decommissioning project thus far in
33 2022. There were no cited or non-cited violations in 2019, 2020 or 2021.
34

35 Progress on Reactor Vessel (RV) segmentation and the ongoing dismantling of other onsite buildings was
36 described. Segmentation of the cylindrical portion of the RV has commenced. The equipment used for
37 this effort was described extensively. It was noted that grout has been injected into the lower dome of
38 the RV to simplify the collection of metal shavings resulting from the segmentation efforts. Recent
39 equipment removals from the Reactor Building include Hydraulic Control Unit components, Control Rod
40 Pump system components and the Stand-By Liquid Control tanks. Progress on creation of a new
41 accessway between the Reactor and Turbine Buildings was described. Removal of components at the
42 River Intake and Discharge Structures continue; most recently, the Discharge Pumps have been
43 removed.
44

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

8
9 NorthStar continues to average 3 to 4 radioactive waste shipments per week. Approximately 425
10 shipments have occurred to date.

11 12 **State Agencies' Updates on VY Decommissioning**

13 *These presentations begin at 0:29:10 in the meeting video.*

14 15 **Public Service Department (PSD)**

16 Eric Guzman, PSD Special Counsel (staff attorney) made this presentation. Nick Capik and Mark Gmyr of
17 Four Points Group (FPG), PSD's consultants for overseeing the financial and technical details of VT
18 Yankee's Decommissioning, were also present to provide additional details as needed. The slides for
19 this presentation are available at: <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/electric/ndcap> in the "Meeting of
20 May 9, 2022" section.

21
22 PSD's financial and technical oversight role was outlined, which includes receiving updates on work
23 completed versus work remaining and project expenditures versus funds remaining. PSD coordinates
24 with other State Agencies and FPG to assess project status and whether decommissioning trust fund
25 reimbursement requests are consistent with the work completed. PSD also meets with NorthStar
26 regularly to conduct any follow-up necessary on NorthStar's self-reporting. Regular site visits by FPG are
27 conducted to observe completed work. The most recent visit was on May 5. The site visits continue to
28 show that project progress is consistent with that described in NorthStar's status reports. NorthStar
29 remains on track to complete the project in 2026 with the currently available funding. NorthStar's
30 required project Annual Financial Disclosures were received by their March 31 deadline and are
31 currently under review by PSD, Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Health, and the Attorney
32 General's Office. These reviews thus far have not raised any causes for concern for completing the VY
33 decommissioning project as expected.

34
35 Updates on the Decommissioning and Site Restoration Trust Funds were provided. As of April 30,
36 approximately \$242.3 million remains in the Decommissioning Trust, with \$241.0 million currently
37 expected to complete decommissioning work. As of April 30, approximately \$52.2 million remains in the
38 Site Restoration Trust, with \$12.8 million currently expected to complete site restoration. Spent Fuel
39 Management costs through 2052 are expected to be \$290.0 million. NorthStar anticipates collecting
40 \$276.4 million from US Department of Energy for Spent Fuel Management costs, and has another
41 \$266.8 million currently available for these expenses.

1 **Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) / Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)**

2 *This presentation begins at 0:38:32 in the meeting video.* Graham Bradley from ANR / DEC Waste
3 Management Division provided this update. The slides for this presentation are available at:
4 <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/electric/ndcap> in the “Meeting of May 9, 2022” section.

5
6 DEC’s ongoing interactions with VT Yankee were outlined (regular status calls, draft permit reviews, and
7 corrective action plan reviews). It was noted that the State Agencies meet with NorthStar on a biweekly
8 basis to review progress on the site’s decommissioning. Sampling programs for non-radiological
9 contaminants continue to show no area-wide contamination issues at the VY site. ANR/DEC continues
10 to work closely with NorthStar’s remediation contractor, Haley & Aldrich, on planning to address
11 potential contaminant issues in previously identified Areas of Concern (AOCs). This includes reviewing
12 post-demolition sampling plans and previously submitted remediations for the AOCs. No new
13 contamination areas (including potential PCB contaminations) have been found onsite. Ongoing
14 samplings at the former Cooling Tower sites were described, including surveys for Volatile Organic
15 Compounds (VOCs). No contaminations have been identified thus far, but sampling will continue. VOCs
16 sampling in the vicinity of the Turbine Building has identified two sites requiring clean-up. These were
17 expected since they are in areas where vehicle fuels were stored. Clean-up in these areas is proceeding
18 as expected. It was also noted that contaminated soil detected near the former East Cooling Tower
19 Transformer site was removed and used as ballast in a radioactive waste shipment sent to Waste
20 Control Specialists (WCS).

21
22 **Panelist Questions on NorthStar and State Agencies’ Reports**

23 *Panelist questions on these presentations begin at 0:51:04 on the meeting video.*

24
25 Marvin Resnikoff stated that he was impressed by the amount of work completed. He requested
26 clarification from Corey Daniels on the status of core shroud and the Greater Than Class C (GTCC)
27 radioactive waste. Is it in the Spent Fuel Pool or out on the Spent Fuel Storage (ISFSI) Pad?
28 Corey Daniels replied that all GTCC has been downsized and has been packaged for placement in the
29 Non-Fuel Waste Container that will eventually be moved to the ISFSI. The GTCC waste packaging is
30 currently in the Spent Fuel Pool. The move to the ISFSI will likely take place in October or so (later
31 restated as between August and October). However, the move will not occur until RV disassembly is
32 complete. The GTCC waste move will require the Reactor Building Crane which is currently essential to
33 the RV disassembly work. The Spent Fuel Pool will be decommissioned once the GTCC waste move is
34 complete.

35
36 **Public Questions on NorthStar and State Agencies’ Reports**

37 *Public questions on these presentations begin at 0:54:10 on the meeting video.*

38
39 Schuyler Gould (New England Coalition) requested clarification on one point in the NorthStar
40 presentation. The presentation appeared to say that spent fuel was still being loaded into casks. Is this
41 correct?

42
43 Corey Daniels responded that all spent fuel loadings (and transfers to the ISFSI) were completed in 2018.
44 The waste disposal container loadings described this evening are Reactor Vessel components. These

1 components have been shipped to WCS (in western Texas). All GTCC waste continues to be stored
2 onsite.

3
4 In a follow-up, Mr. Gould asked for a characterization of the Curies that have been shipped offsite.
5 Corey Daniels indicated that the shipped Curies were contained in activated components from the plant
6 such as RV components and steam pipes. In a second follow-up, Mr. Gould asked for clarification on
7 how underground piping will be addressed. Pipes at depths 4 feet below grade can be reamed out and
8 sealed rather than removed. Won't this leave contamination behind? Corey Daniels replied that any
9 piping having radiological contamination will be removed.

10
11 Ann Darling (Citizens Awareness Network) noted that the NorthStar presentation mentioned that HEPA
12 (High Efficiency Particulate Air) filters are being used during the RV segmentation work. What is being
13 filtered?

14
15 Corey Daniels responded that the HEPA filters are used to assure that a cool, clean air supply is available
16 to workers in the Reactor Building. The air is being filtered to assure that any potential particulates from
17 ongoing work activities are removed from the Reactor Building air.

18
19 Panelist Lissa Weinmann noted she was impressed by the magnitude of the project. She asked whether
20 the Indigenous Peoples consultant was still involved in the project.

21
22 Corey Daniels indicated that Rich Holschuh (Elnu Abenaki) continues to be consulted, however, between
23 COVID and several other items, there has not been much contact recently. Much of the search area
24 consists of previously disturbed grounds. Corey will reach out to Rich again in the near future. The
25 consultations will continue since Rich has expressed significant interest in assuring that the Vermont
26 Yankee land properly heals.

27 28 **Early General Comments**

29 *Comments begin at 1:07:30 on the meeting video.*

30
31 Ann Darling (Citizens Awareness Network) asked what the Panel is currently doing to improve its public
32 outreach. In response, State Nuclear Engineer Tony Leshinskie outlined the press release distributions
33 that normally take place prior to any NDCAP meeting. He also noted that he now has direct control of
34 updates to the Panel website (<https://publicservice.vermont.gov/electric/ndcap>) and is using the
35 opportunity to improve its organization. Tony is seeking comments and suggestions for website
36 improvements, which can be sent to the Panel's email address (PSD.NDCAP@vermont.gov).

37
38 Ms. Darling reiterated that the Panel needs to do more to publicize its activities, particularly when
39 something as important as the Panel's recent Advisory Opinion is issued.

40
41 Schuyler Gould (New England Coalition) voiced concern that the Panel was meeting tonight without a
42 quorum. Individual Panel members should be contacted and those that are frequently absent should be
43 reminded of their responsibilities to the Panel or, if they are unable to attend most meetings, should
44 consider resigning so other appointees can join.

1 Panel Chair Emily Davis noted that because Legislature was called into session this evening on short
2 notice, several Panelists were unexpectedly unavailable this evening. She also noted that the legislation
3 establishing the Panel does discuss terms of office for the Panelists. She suggested that meeting
4 attendance could be pursued through the Public Service Commissioner’s Office.
5

6 At this point, Tony Leshinskie reported that Bob Leach had joined the meeting. A quorum of Panelists
7 was now present.
8

9 **Update on Federal Nuclear Waste Policy (FNWP) Committee Activities**

10 *This discussion begins at 1:20:04 on the meeting video.*
11

12 FNWP Committee Chair Lissa Weinmann provided a verbal summary of the Committee’s most recent
13 activities. The Committee is looking at improving or formalizing Panel follow-up once an Advisory
14 Opinion is published. It was noted that representatives from Deep Isolation, Inc. outlined its proposed
15 alternative to a proposed geologic spent fuel repositories at the Committee’s March 28 meeting. The
16 proposal would store spent fuel in horizontal drilled holes between 1 to 2 miles in depth, using current
17 technology for oil drilling. Individual repository holes would store fuel assemblies end-to-end. The
18 horizontal portion of each storage hole could be 2 to 3 miles long.
19

20 The Committee will meet again on May 23. Tony Leshinskie is working on having representatives from
21 Holtec International attend this meeting to discuss their current plans for long-term monitoring and
22 aging management for dry cask storage systems, such as those currently used at the VT Yankee site.
23

24 **General Public Comments to the Panel:**

25 *Comments begin at 1:27:45 on the meeting video.*
26

27 Schuyler Gould (New England Coalition): requested that the Panel do more to publicize its recent
28 Advisory Opinion on Spent Nuclear Fuel disposal, as the work that has been done is very important. The
29 Legislature, Governor’s Office, relevant State Agencies, and Vermont’s Congressional Delegation must
30 be kept apprised of Panel activities. Taking out newspaper ads and sending letters to local newspapers
31 should be considered to publicize approved Advisory Opinions.
32

33 **Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes**

34 *This segment begins at 1:36:58 on the meeting video.*

35 Since a quorum of Panelists was now present, Emily Davis suggested that the Panel proceed to review
36 and approve meeting minutes for the past several meetings, as was included on tonight’s meeting
37 agenda.
38

39 December 6, 2021 Meeting Minutes: The December 6, 2021 meeting minutes were reviewed. Tony
40 Leshinskie requested that the following changes be made:
41

- 42 - On Page 9, Line 22, change “removed” to “remove”
 - 43 - On Page 9, Line 40, change “meetings” to “meeting”
 - 44 - On Page 11, Line 16, change “request” to “requested”
- 45

1 No other changes to the December 6 minutes were requested by the Panelists present. Bill Irwin moved
2 approve the December 6, 2021 meeting minutes as amended. Bob Leach seconded the motion. The
3 motion was approved by yeas and nays. No nays were heard, with Lissa Weinmann abstaining (8-0 vote
4 with one abstention).

5
6 January 10 Meeting Minutes: The January 10 meeting minutes were reviewed. Tony Leshinskie
7 requested that the following changes be made:

- 8
- 9 - On Page 2, Line 1, delete the extraneous “(“ from the end of the line that currently reads
10 “...Team webcast (a quorum was”
- 11 - On Page 3, Line 10, change “date” to “data”
- 12

13 No other changes to the January 10 minutes were requested by the Panelists present. Bill Irwin moved
14 approve the January 10 meeting minutes as amended. Bob Leach seconded the motion. The motion
15 was approved by yeas and nays. No nays were heard, with Lissa Weinmann abstaining (8-0 vote with
16 one abstention).

17
18 February 28 Meeting Minutes: The February 28 meeting minutes were reviewed. Tony Leshinskie noted
19 that his review identified no required changes to the draft minutes. No changes to the February 28
20 minutes were requested by the Panelists present. Both Emily Davis and Bob Leach moved to approve
21 the February 28 meeting minutes as drafted. Corey Daniels seconded the motion. The motion was
22 approved by yeas and nays. No nays were heard, with Lissa Weinmann and Bill Irwin abstaining (7-0
23 vote with two abstentions).

24 25 **Meeting Wrap-Up**

26 It was noted that the Panel is scheduled to meet again on September 19, and December 12. These will
27 hopefully be in-person meetings rather than just webcasts. Emily Davis noted that she’ll be looking for
28 potential meeting sites in the Brattleboro area.

29
30
31 **MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:46 PM.**