

1 **FIRST DRAFT of Meeting Minutes (Subject to Approval at next Full Panel Meeting)**  
2 **Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel (NDCAP)**  
3 **Monday, April 12, 2021**  
4 **Microsoft Teams 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 • **Josh Unruh**, *Citizen Appointee of Governor Phil Scott, Panel Vice-Chair*
- 11 • **June Tierney**, *Commissioner of Public Service, ex officio*
- 12 • **Lissa Weinmann** (*Brattleboro*), *Citizen Appointee of former Senate President Pro*  
13 *Tempore Tim Ashe, VT NDCAP Federal Nuclear Waste Policy Committee Chair*
- 14 • **Madeline Arms**, *Representative for the Town of Vernon*
- 15 • **Chris Campany**, *Executive Director of the Windham Regional Commission (WRC)*
- 16 • **VT State Representative Sara Coffey** (*Guilford*), *Citizen Appointee of former Speaker of*  
17 *the House Mitzi Johnson*
- 18 • **Corey Daniels**, *Senior ISFSI Manager, NorthStar Vermont Yankee*
- 19 • **Dr. Bill Irwin**, *Radiological & Toxicological Sciences Program Chief, Designee for the*  
20 *Secretary of Human Services*
- 21 • **Bob Leach**, *Citizen Appointee of Governor Phil Scott (joined webcast at 7:05 PM after*  
22 *several connectivity issues)*
- 23 • **Brett Long**, *Deputy Commissioner of Economic Development, Designee for the Secretary*  
24 *of Commerce and Community Development*
- 25 • **David Pearson**, *Vice-President and Regional Manager, NorthStar Group Services*
- 26 • **Trish Coppolino**, *Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Senior Program*  
27 *Manager, attending in lieu of **Chuck Schwer**, DEC Waste Management Division Director,*  
28 *Designee for the Secretary of Natural Resources*
- 29 • **VT State Representative Laura Sibilio**, *Member of the House Committee on Energy &*  
30 *Technology (joined webcast at 6:34 PM)*
- 31 • **Marvin Resnikoff**, *Citizen Appointee of former Speaker of the House Mitzi Johnson*  
32

33 The following NDCAP members were absent from the meeting:

- 34 • **VT State Senator Mark MacDonald**, *Member of the Senate Committee on Natural*  
35 *Resources and Energy*
- 36 • **MA State Representative Paul Mark** (*Peru, MA*), *representing the Towns of Bernardston,*  
37 *Colrain, Gill, Greenfield, Leyden, Northfield, and Warwick, Massachusetts, appointee of*  
38 *former MA Governor Deval Patrick*

39  
40 There are currently two vacancies on the Panel.  
41

1 With 13 Panelists connected at the start of the Teams webcast (and two Panelists joining late), a  
2 quorum was present (10 Panelists required). Approximately 28 members of the public (and 9 staff  
3 members associated with the Panel) connected to the webcast.

4  
5 The meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM; a recording of the meeting webcast is available online at  
6 <http://publicservice.vermont.gov/electric/ndcap> and at  
7 [https://www.brattleborotv.org/vt-nuclear-decommissioning-citizens-advisory-panel/vt-ndcap-41221-](https://www.brattleborotv.org/vt-nuclear-decommissioning-citizens-advisory-panel/vt-ndcap-41221-mtg)  
8 [mtg](https://www.brattleborotv.org/vt-nuclear-decommissioning-citizens-advisory-panel/vt-ndcap-41221-mtg)

#### 9 10 **General Instructions for Webcast Participation:**

11 The review of webcast participation instructions was not done. State Nuclear Engineer Tony Leshinskie  
12 provided instructions as need throughout the meeting.

#### 13 14 **Welcome, Opening Remarks & Overview of Meeting Agenda:**

15 The Chair, Emily Davis, welcomed everyone for the meeting and briefly outlined tonight’s agenda  
16 (available at <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/content/meeting-agenda-4-12-2021>). It was noted that  
17 Paul Wolossow had been appointed the Panel’s New Hampshire Towns representative. Unfortunately,  
18 Mr. Wolossow subsequently passed away during the week of March 28. Panelists present for the  
19 webcast briefly introduced themselves.

20  
21 **Amendments to the Meeting Agenda:** No additions to the meeting agenda were made.

22  
23 **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** The December 7, 2020 meeting minutes were briefly reviewed. State  
24 Nuclear Engineer Tony Leshinskie requested one correction to the minutes on Page 5, Line 31, to add  
25 the word “all” immediately after “almost.” A motion to approve the December 7 minutes as amended  
26 was made by Corey Daniels and seconded by Sara Coffey. The amended minutes were approved by  
27 voice vote with no nays heard. Trish Coppolino abstained.

#### 28 29 **NorthStar Update on VY Site Decommissioning Activities**

30 *NorthStar’s presentation begins at 0:06:34 in the meeting video.* Panel Member Corey Daniels,  
31 NorthStar Senior ISFSI (spent fuel storage) Manager at Vermont Yankee, presented a summary of recent  
32 site decommissioning activities. The slides for this presentation are available at:  
33 <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/electric/ndcap> in the “Meeting of April 12, 2021” section.

34  
35 NorthStar is quickly approaching 700,000 person hours without an OSHA Recordable Lost Time Accident  
36 since starting decommissioning work in January 2019. The goal is to complete the project with zero Lost  
37 Time Accidents.

38  
39 Progress on Reactor Vessel (RV) segmentation was described. While RV segmentation is behind  
40 schedule, Orano continues to perform high-quality work on the task. No significant impact to the overall  
41 project schedule is anticipated. (The RV segmentation schedule was rather aggressive.) Segmentation  
42 of the Core Shroud cylinder is nearing completion, which is one of the last difficult component  
43 segmentations to be completed. Recent Control Rod Guide Tubes segmentation and waste packaging  
44 was also discussed. Current Turbine Building demolition and equipment removals were described; focus

1 of current work is removal of the Feedwater Heaters and disassembly of the Condenser. Removal of  
2 Emergency Diesel Generator Rooms equipment was also described. The planned removal of the  
3 500,000 gallon Condensate Storage Tank was discussed. Additionally, clearing of ancillary abandoned  
4 structures such as former security shacks and barricades was noted.  
5

6 Through the end of February, 235 radwaste shipments have been sent to WCS facilities since the start of  
7 decommissioning project. Roughly 3 shipments occur per week; this will increase somewhat as seasonal  
8 weather improves.  
9

10 NorthStar continues steady progress in non-radiological clean-up onsite; working with Agency of Natural  
11 Resources on additional corrective action plans. No new contaminated areas have been identified  
12 onsite. NorthStar's requested groundwater diversion and river discharge permit was recently approved  
13 by the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).  
14

15 Question from Marvin Resnikoff: Asked about Greater-than-Class C components being packaged for  
16 shipment; aren't these supposed to be stored at VY's Dry Cask Storage Pads? In response, Corey Daniels  
17 re-iterated that the waste packages being shipped are not Greater-than-Class C radioactive waste. The  
18 several components that are Greater-than-Class C waste will be placed in a Holtec canister similar to  
19 those housing the onsite spent nuclear fuel; it will be placed on one of the Dry Cask Storage Pads.  
20

21 In a follow-up question, Marvin Resnikoff raised concern that the quantity of radwaste reported for the  
22 Reactor Vessel segmentation, a value of several thousand Curies, is low compared to an NRC-produced  
23 report indicating that the radwaste quantity should be millions of Curies. In response, Corey Daniels  
24 noted that he was not familiar with what report Marvin was referencing. It could be based on a larger  
25 reactor, possibly a pressurized water reactor rather than a boiling water reactor (BWR). Marvin  
26 indicated that he would follow-up with Corey and provide the specific report, which is based on a BWR.  
27

## 28 **State Agencies' Updates on VY Decommissioning**

29 *These presentations begin at 0:28:50 in the meeting video.*  
30

### 31 **Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) / Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)** 32 **Project Update**

33 Gerold Noyes from ANR / DEC Waste Management Division provided this update. The slides for this  
34 presentation are available at: <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/electric/ndcap> in the "Meeting of  
35 April 12, 2021" section.  
36

37 DEC's ongoing interactions with VT Yankee were outlined (regular status calls, draft permit and  
38 corrective action plan reviews). No ANR site visits have occurred since November 19. Information from  
39 these communications is available from both the NorthStar and ANR websites. ANR's continued focus  
40 on quarterly groundwater sampling for non-radiological contaminants was outlined. No new or  
41 unexpected contaminations have been identified by this ongoing program. ANR continues to work  
42 closely with NorthStar's remediation contractor, Haley & Aldrich. VY's permit for a groundwater  
43 intercept well system has been approved. This program will require water testing before intercepted  
44 water is discharged to the Connecticut River. ANR continues to review the post-demolition sampling  
45 plan and previously submitted remediation for several previously identified Areas of Concern (AOCs).

1 No new contamination areas have been found onsite thus far; however more sampling will be done as  
2 more structures at the site are demolished, allowing more areas to be sampled. Onsite asbestos  
3 abatements are largely complete. No significant anomalies were found. The abatement work complies  
4 with established procedures. Sampling plans, review of work plans and corrective action plans will  
5 continue. Site visits will pick-up as COVID-19 restrictions are eliminated. In the interim, the primary  
6 communication will remain regular status calls and ongoing reviews.

### 7 8 **Department of Health Project Update**

9 Panelist Dr. Bill Irwin, Vermont Radiological and Toxicology Sciences Chief, provided this update. The  
10 slides for this presentation are available at: <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/electric/ndcap> in the  
11 “Meeting of April 12, 2021” section. *This presentation begins at 0:42:48 in the meeting video.*

12  
13 Much of Health’s focus this year continues to be the COVID-19 pandemic rather than VT Yankee  
14 interactions. Nonetheless, Health continues to assist Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)  
15 in its oversight of VT Yankee activities. Health meets twice monthly with DEC, Public Service  
16 Department and NorthStar to review progress on the project. These meetings continue to be quite  
17 informative. Health’s groundwater, air sampling and radiation (dosimeters at the property line)  
18 monitoring at the site were briefly outlined. Despite the Pandemic, Health was able to conduct several  
19 onsite inspections during 2020. Health was significantly involved in ANR’s water discharge permit  
20 process for Vermont Yankee. Thus far, the decommissioning project has not had an adverse  
21 environmental impact. The water sampling program for the water discharge permit will be starting  
22 soon. Radioactive waste shipments are also monitored. Most of the shipments are going to WCS in  
23 Texas. The activity for individual shipments and the number of shipments was briefly discussed. Some  
24 shipments have significantly higher activity (but under 10 Curies) when they include Reactor Vessel  
25 components.

### 26 27 **Public Service (PSD) Project Assessment and Update**

28 Eric Guzman, PSD Special Counsel (staff attorney) made this presentation. Nick Capik and Mark Gmyr of  
29 Four Points Group (FPG), PSD’s consultants for overseeing the financial and technical details of VT  
30 Yankee’s Decommissioning, were also present to provide additional details as needed. The slides for  
31 this presentation are available at: <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/electric/ndcap> in the “Meeting of  
32 April 12, 2021” section. *The PSD presentation begins at 0:53:16 in the meeting video.*

33  
34 Eric outlined PSD’s financial and technical oversight role, which includes updates on work complete  
35 versus work remaining and project expenditures versus funds remaining. PSD coordinates with other  
36 State Agencies and FPG to assess project status and whether the trust fund reimbursement requests are  
37 consistent with the work completed. Site visits are currently conducted roughly every two months to  
38 observe completed work have been limited by the COVID-19 pandemic. The most recent site visit was in  
39 February and concluded that the project progress is consistent with that described in NorthStar’s most  
40 recent status reports. NorthStar remains on track to complete the project with available funding.  
41 NorthStar’s required annual project certification report and financial disclosures were received on  
42 March 31. These are currently under Departmental review.

1 Nuclear Decommissioning Trust (NDT) and Site Restoration Trust (SRT) fund balances for November  
2 2020 through March 31 were provided. As of March 31, the NDT balance is roughly \$342 million; the  
3 SRT balance is roughly \$60 million. All fund disbursements are for work already completed.  
4  
5

## 6 **Panelist Questions on NorthStar and State Agencies' Reports**

7 *Panelist questions on these presentations begin at 0:58:20 on the meeting video.*  
8

9 Lissa Weinmann asked whether there is a mechanism for making the site's uncontaminated equipment  
10 available for resale rather than being demolished. Lissa felt that items such as the diesel generators  
11 discussed this evening would have resale value. Also, if NorthStar does resell equipment, where to the  
12 funds from the sale go? Corey Daniels replied that some of the site's equipment has been resold;  
13 several NorthStar people work on this type of asset recovery. Fan motors from VT Yankee's cooling  
14 towers was sited as an example of equipment that was resold. It was also noted that several plant  
15 components were resold shortly after the VT Yankee shutdown. The issue is often that the cost of  
16 removing a component from the site while maintaining its required quality assurance pedigree for use at  
17 another facility is frequently higher than the value of the equipment itself. Additionally, much of the  
18 site's equipment is regarded as being antique. It is often cheaper for a potential buyer to simply  
19 purchase new equipment. Money from any sold equipment goes back to NorthStar, but much of this  
20 money is placed in contingency funds for the decommissioning project.  
21

22 Chris Company asked whether some of the site's newer diesel generators were successfully sold. In  
23 response, Corey Daniels noted that the site's 3500 kilowatt "Station Blackout" diesel generator was  
24 previously sold. Additionally, Corey believes that a 145 kilowatt generator that had been used as an  
25 interim power supply for onsite security equipment was donated to the hurricane relief effort for Puerto  
26 Rico. Additionally, some of the site scrap material, such as copper from the turbine-generator, was sold  
27 for recycling.  
28

29 Lissa Weinmann requested that NorthStar track where its abandoned security equipment is being sent  
30 or whom it is being sold to, particularly in the wake of the January 6 Insurrection. Corey Daniels agreed  
31 that this was a good point. He did note that NorthStar knows who some of the more significant items,  
32 e.g., the bullet resistant enclosures, are going to.  
33  
34

## 35 **Public Questions on NorthStar and State Agencies' Reports**

36 *Public questions on these presentations begins at 1:05:35 on the meeting video.*  
37

38 Chris Williams (Citizens Awareness Network, Brattleboro, via meeting chat): Please tell us more about  
39 the license transfer request. What is the reason for that request? Corey Daniels indicated that he  
40 wasn't sure what license transfer was being referred to in the question. Chris Williams followed up  
41 verbally indicating that the request appeared on the NRC website yesterday. NorthStar is making the  
42 request. Corey indicated that this might be referring to a previous request that NorthStar made, that  
43 may be showing up now as a new request on the NRC's website. It's a reorganization of the owners of  
44 the current VT Yankee licensees. The intent is to put all of NorthStar's nuclear-related assets under one

1 branch of the company. It makes zero change to the MOU (that NorthStar works under for the State) or  
2 Vermont Yankee’s day-to-day operations.

3  
4 Deb Katz (Citizens Awareness Network, Rowe, MA): What’s the estimated Curie count of the Core  
5 Shroud? Corey Daniels indicated that he didn’t have a count for the entire shroud since it is going into  
6 several different radwaste shipping containers. No components of the VT Yankee core shroud qualify as  
7 Greater Than Class C (GTCC) radwaste. Deb Katz stated she understood that none of it was GTCC, but  
8 she is curious how it is being shipped and what are the Curie counts for the packages (curious about how  
9 NorthStar has enhanced the process). Corey replied that the Shroud is being shipped in several of 17  
10 “custom boxes.” Each of the boxes will have a different Curie content. Corey provided several details  
11 on how the packages comply with the several shipment requirements from the NRC and US Department  
12 of Transportation. The shipments are being sent by rail. Typical Custom Boxes are 12 feet high and 10  
13 or 12 feet long and about 8 feet wide (to fit on a railcar).

14  
15 In a follow-up question: What is the decontamination process for the Effluent Stack? The stack and its  
16 components will be radiologically surveyed extensively. Fixatives will be used to capture contamination  
17 from surfaces and components. The demolition itself will work to drop Stack components and debris  
18 down through the stack itself.

19  
20 In a second follow-up: how is mixed waste (e.g., radioactively contaminated asbestos) handled? Gerold  
21 Noyes responded that DEC and Health monitors this. Mixed waste is treated as radioactively  
22 contaminated waste and is sent to WCS. “Pure” asbestos waste is sent to appropriate hazmat facilities,  
23 as are other hazardous materials. Corey Daniels should be able to provide a better answer. Very little  
24 non-radiological hazmat has been found so far.

25  
26 Subsequently, Corey Daniels was able to provide the Curie counts for the first several Custom Boxes  
27 shipped to WCS: Box A had 1 Curie; Box B had 7 Curies; Box C had 6 Curies; Box D had 5 Curies; the next  
28 4 boxes are planned to have 10 Curies each.

29  
30 Kevin Kamps (Takoma Park, MD; Beyond Nuclear): Requested clarification on the destinations for VT  
31 Yankee’s low level radioactive waste. Corey Daniels reported that all of the radwaste goes to WCS  
32 facilities in Texas, but Bill Irwin reported that multiple disposal locations were used (e.g., Tennessee and  
33 Washington state). Bill Irwin replied that some contaminated water has been shipped to alternate  
34 disposal facilities, including some in Tennessee. Bill’s report was providing some history on VT Yankee’s  
35 waste disposals.

36  
37 In a follow-up: Vermont Yankee uses Holtec containers for its high-level radwaste, yet NorthStar’s  
38 association with the proposed Interim Storage Partners Interim Storage Facility would use containers  
39 from other manufacturers. What is NorthStar’s plan VT Yankee’s high-level waste? Could Interim  
40 Storage Partner’s facility handle VT Yankee’s high-level waste or would it need to go to Holtec’s facility?  
41 Corey Daniels replied that it is likely that the VT Yankee spent fuel will remain onsite for quite some  
42 time. However, it is expected that should Interim Storage Partner’s facility receive NRC approval to  
43 accept high-level waste, it will likely be license to accept waste contained in all approved containers,  
44 since all are similar in function and design.

1 Anne Darling (Easthampton, MA): asked for details on the dewatering plan and what below grade  
2 structures will remain at the site? Corey Daniels described that the dewatering / water diversion plan  
3 was in place to limit the water seeping into the Turbine Building. While the seepage is controlled now,  
4 this wasn't always the case. The dewatering plan diverts water before it enters the Turbine Building so  
5 that it does not have to be treated as radioactive waste. Also, as buildings are demolished, the site will  
6 need to manage keeping water out of areas being worked on that are below the water table. What  
7 underground structures will be left has yet to be finalized but is governed by the decommissioning  
8 MOU.

9

10 Nancy Rice (Randolph, VT; Vermont Yankee Decommissioning Alliance): Asked that the Panel pursue  
11 relocating VT Yankee's Dry Cask Storage Casks to higher ground and implement better protection  
12 against more severe weather and flooding due to climate change. In 2011, Hurricane Irene was headed  
13 directly towards Vernon and the Vermont Yankee site but unexpectedly shifted direction.

14

### 15 **Early General Public Comments**

16 *This public comment period begins at 1:28:14 on the meeting video.*

17

18 Debra Stoleroff (Plainfield, VT, VT Yankee Decommissioning Alliance): repeated her concern that interim  
19 waste storage and its transportation represents an Environmental Justice issue for the communities that  
20 would receive it. Any potential for an accident involving nuclear waste is too much risk. She also  
21 expressed concern that accidents involving nuclear materials are under-reported, noting a recent  
22 accident involving a nuclear material shipment in South Carolina. VT must store its waste right here,  
23 where it was generated.

24

### 25 **Discussion of Federal Nuclear Waste Policy Committee Activities**

26 *This discussion begins at 1:32:55 in the meeting video.*

27

28 Lissa Weinmann, Chair of the Panel's Federal Nuclear Waste Policy Committee, briefly outlined the  
29 Committee's activities during its first several meetings. The Committee has been compiling a reading list  
30 of relevant materials to help them come-up to speed on various nuclear waste policy issues. This  
31 reading list is included on a webpage that has been created for the Committee:

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

33

34 Nuclear Waste Policy being considered by the Committee include Yucca Mountain, Consolidated Interim  
35 Storage, Nuclear Waste Transportation, the durability of Interim Nuclear Waste Storage Facilities (ISFSIs)  
36 and potential community compensation for hosting an ISFSI. The Committee expects to have  
37 recommendations for potential Advisory Opinions on these subjects for Panel consideration by the end  
38 of this year.

39

40 The Committee has been meeting monthly, typically on the third Monday of the month, and tries to  
41 limit its meetings to one hour. Much of the Committee's efforts is actually "homework" outside of the  
42 Committee meetings. The Committee has made arrangements to have invited speakers briefly present  
43 on Committee Topics. Ian Zabarte of the Western Bands of the Shoshone Nation of Indians spoke at the  
44 March 15 meeting outlining the Tribe's opposition to the Yucca Mountain facility on its land. Speakers  
45 at upcoming meetings include Mark Holt of the Congressional Research Service and Sarah Hofmann of

1 the Vermont PUC. Mark will discuss nuclear waste policy bills that will likely be introduced in Congress  
2 this year. Sarah will discuss her involvement with the Nuclear Waste Strategy Coalition. The Committee  
3 is also interested in reaching out to other Citizen Advisory Panels. For example, the Committee is  
4 interested in the agreement between Holtec and the Oyster Creek (NJ) Advisory Panel that has resulted  
5 in that Panel publicly supporting Holtec's proposed Consolidated Interim Storage Facility.  
6

7 The Committee is also working on adopting a Mission Statement. Based on Panel discussion, this  
8 statement currently reads as:  
9

10 The FNWP Committee studies federal policy options for nuclear waste storage and considers  
11 how VT Yankee is situated within the national landscape. By methodically procuring input from  
12 VT's federal delegation and industry experts and other stakeholders, the Committee accordingly  
13 advances the learning goals of VT NDCAP (and will share committee-approved findings with the  
14 Full Panel on a regular basis). Should the Committee arrive at an any affirmative policy position,  
15 which it aims to do before the end of 2021, the Committee will recommend that VT NDCAP  
16 adopt the advisory opinion, pursuant to its own its stated purpose, where: "NDCAP shall advise  
17 the Governor, General Assembly, the agencies of the state, and the public on issues related to  
18 decommissioning."  
19

20 In subsequent Panel discussion, Chris Company asked what current PUC statements mean with respect  
21 to the Nuclear Waste Strategy Coalition's stated policies. In response, Public Service Commission June  
22 Tierney noted that PUC Commissioner Sarah Hofmann has been part of the Nuclear Waste Strategy  
23 Coalition for many years and has served as its Chair. The Public Service Department pays for the PUC's  
24 participation in the Coalition as a courtesy to Commissioner Hofmann. With Commissioner Hofmann's  
25 term on the PUC coming to an end, Commissioner Tierney intends to withdraw the PUC and the  
26 Departments membership in the Coalition after Commissioner Hofmann steps down from the PUC.  
27

28 Sara Coffey suggested that the rest of the Panel make the time to review some of the reading material  
29 that the Committee has pulled together. There are important topics to consider in this reading.  
30

31 Corey Daniels requested that the Committee and the Panel view the material with a positive perspective  
32 and an open mind. Recommendations from the Committee and the Panel should suggest a direction  
33 forward rather than simply stating opposition to a policy direction.  
34

35 Emily Davis asked whether the Town of Vernon representatives on the Panel had anything to add to the  
36 topics that the Committee is considering, since the Town will be significantly impacted by Nuclear Waste  
37 Policies. The Panel members with Town of Vernon connections (Maddy Arms, Josh Unruh and Bob  
38 Leach) each indicated that they were not in a position to make a statement at this time.  
39

#### 40 **Overview of Texas Compact Commission Contingency Planning Report**

41 *This discussion begins at 1:59:23 in the meeting video.*  
42

43 Emily Davis noted that she had circulated a report from the Texas Compact Commission discussing the  
44 need for Low Level Waste Disposal Contingency Planning. She requested that Tony Leshinskie give a  
45 brief summary of the report, which he proceeded to do:

1 Tony noted that the Compact Commission is required to publish Contingency Planning Report to comply  
2 with Federal and State of Texas Law. The report recommends that low level radioactive waste  
3 producers maintain a contingency plan for alternate waste disposal in the event that the Compact  
4 Facility becomes unavailable for whatever reason. Of particular concern is Class B and Class C low level  
5 waste because there are no other licensed facilities in the US that can accept these waste classes. Active  
6 and Decommissioning nuclear power plants do have the ability to store Class B and C wastes for some  
7 period of time, however other waste producers may not. Tony indicated that he planned on working  
8 with NorthStar and the Department of Health in coordinating a contingency plan for all Vermont  
9 radioactive waste producers. The plan needs to consider what radiologically derived equipment, such as  
10 sterilization irradiators or radiological medicine devices, will potentially become Class B or Class C  
11 radwaste when it comes time to decommission them. Tony also noted that the Compact Facility does  
12 not currently foresee any reason why it would become unavailable but planning for this potential  
13 contingency needs to be done.

14  
15 June Tierney re-iterated this last point: neither the Compact Commission nor the facility operator (WCS)  
16 anticipate a need for closing the facility. She directed Tony to continue pursuing this contingency  
17 planning. Chris Company added that it may be good to hear from Vermont's Compact Commission  
18 representatives on this and other Compact Commission issues. There was general agreement that the  
19 Commission representatives should be invited to speak at the next Panel meeting. Emily Davis and June  
20 Tierney will coordinate on reaching out to Commission representatives.

21

## 22 **Public Comments of Federal Nuclear Waste Policy Committee Activities**

23 *This discussion begins at 2:13:48 in the meeting video.*

24

25 Kevin Kamps noted that he has added several documents and links in the meeting chat. The Texas  
26 Legislature is considering legislation that would ban high level waste disposal at the WCS facilities in  
27 Andrews County, TX. In exchange, funding that WCS must pay to Texas for regulating the disposal  
28 facility would be greatly diminished. Also, New Mexico has filed a lawsuit that would prevent both  
29 proposed Interim Storage Facilities in Texas and New Mexico from operating. These actions show that  
30 there is considerable consternation across Texas and New Mexico about these facilities. This is an issue  
31 of Environmental Justice that Vermont should reconsider dumping all of its low level radwaste in  
32 Andrews County, TX.

33

34 John Halasz (Barre, VT) provided additional information on the recent nuclear material transport  
35 accident in South Carolina. A truck carrying four containers of Uranium Hexafluoride (a gas) on I-95  
36 crashed. Two of the containers landed on the highway. in South Carolina. This illustrates the dangers  
37 associated with transporting nuclear waste. What would have happened if the truck had fallen into a  
38 ravine? The gas still could have been released despite the layers of engineering that supposedly make  
39 these shipments safe.

40

## 41 **Status Report on VT NDCAP Legislation**

42 *This discussion begins at 2:22:46 on the meeting video.*

43 Panel Members and Vermont House Representatives Sara Coffey and Laura Sibilila briefly outlined the  
44 status of their bill to realign the Panel's composition and provide a funding source for the Panel. This bill  
45 was the result of several Panel discussions in late 2019 and early 2020. The Panel voted on the wording

1 of the bill in February 2020 and it was introduced to the Legislature. Due to other priorities (particularly  
2 the response to the Pandemic), the bill did not come to a Senate vote in 2020. The bill was reintroduced  
3 this year and has again passed the House (part of House Bill H.431,  
4 <https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2022/H.431>). The bill has been referred to the Senate  
5 Finance Committee, which has yet to take testimony on the bill.  
6

7 After a brief discussion, Chris Company motioned for the Panel to send a letter to the Legislature  
8 endorsing the NDCAP-related items in H.431. This letter would be sent to the Senate Finance  
9 Committee, the Senate Pro Tempore and the Windham County Delegation. Lissa Weinmann seconded  
10 this motion.  
11

12 The Panel vote (in alphabetical order) was as follows:  
13

14 Madeline Arms, Yes  
15 Chris Company, Yes  
16 Sara Coffey, Yes  
17 Trish Coppolino, Yes  
18 Corey Daniels, Yes  
19 Emily Davis, Yes  
20 Bill Irwin, Yes  
21 Bob Leach, Yes  
22 Brett Long, not present for this vote  
23 David Pearson, Yes  
24 Marvin Resnikoff, Yes  
25 Laura Sibilila, Yes  
26 June Tierney, Yes  
27 Josh Unruh, Yes  
28 Lissa Weinmann, Yes  
29

30 The Motion passed 13 to 0, with no abstentions.  
31

### 32 **Potential Revamp of Panel Website**

33 Emily Davis asked that Panel members visit the Panel’s website  
34 (<https://publicservice.vermont.gov/electric/ndcap>) and consider whether there are ways to improve its  
35 usefulness to the Panel and the Public. Several Panel members indicated that they would look at the  
36 site. June Tierney cautioned that there may be limits on what can be done to update the website due to  
37 the current strain on Public Service Department resources and the State’s standards for Official  
38 Websites.  
39

### 40 **Scheduling 2021 Panel Meetings**

41 *This discussion begins at 2:39:39 on the meeting video.* After briefly consulting individual schedules, the  
42 Panel agreed to meet next on **Monday, June 14**. Much of this meeting will center on the State Agencies’  
43 evaluations of NorthStar’s March 31 / End of 2020 Calendar Year Project Status Report. Subsequent  
44 meeting dates were tentatively set for **September 20** and **December 6**.  
45

1 Trish Coppolino noted that Chuck Schwer will be retiring at the end of May. A new ANR / DEC  
2 representative to the Panel will need to be appointed prior to the June 14 meeting. Trish may be the  
3 new designee or Chuck’s replacement could be.

4  
5 Bob Leach asked when the Panel would switch back to in-person meetings. June Tierney noted her  
6 preference for keeping the meetings as webcasts, since this eliminates the significant drive times for  
7 Panelists travelling from Montpelier. In response to Bob’s question, Tony Leshinskie noted that in-  
8 person meetings will depend on how and when Pandemic restrictions are lifted. Most of the Panel’s  
9 “live” meetings have been held at area schools (Brattleboro High School, Brattleboro Middle School,  
10 Vernon Elementary School). Current Pandemic restrictions prohibit outside groups from using public  
11 school facilities for non-scholastic activities (e.g., Panel meetings). Panel meetings will either be via  
12 webcast or a hybrid live and webcast format for the foreseeable future.

13  
14 **General Public Comments to the Panel**

15  
16 Lorie Cartwright (New England Coalition) thanked the Panel for looking further into nuclear waste policy  
17 issues.

18  
19 Kevin Kamps (Beyond Nuclear) noted the existence of a Native American Forum on Nuclear Issues. He  
20 has posted a link for the Forum in the Teams Meeting Chat.

21  
22 John Halasz (Barre, VT) stated that it makes little sense to ship nuclear waste to an interim storage site  
23 only to later ship it again to permanent disposal site. This doubles the risk and cost of shipping the  
24 waste. (He also noted that he has made this same comment at other meetings.)

25  
26 **MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:58 PM.**