



UPDATE ON VERMONT YANKEE

Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station in Vernon closed after a 40 year battle to shut it down. **But our fight continues.** The reactor itself must be taken apart, its radioactive pieces and parts shipped elsewhere, the highly radioactive waste safely stored, and the land restored.

No environmental, industrial or public health project in our region will have a greater impact for generations to come than the decommissioning of the 45 year old Vermont Yankee nuclear power reactor and the management of its 900 tons of highly radioactive nuclear waste.

Local citizens do not have many opportunities to make their voices heard when it comes to nuclear power. The federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is a "captive regulator" - it promotes the industry rather than protects the public from the toxic legacy of nuclear waste. We cannot rely on them to keep us safe or hold high environmental clean up standards.

Entergy, the owners since 2002, want to sell the reactor and its waste to a new LLC, NorthStar Groups Services. It must receive permits from the NRC and the Vermont Public Service Board to complete the sale.

NorthStar wants to market itself to the US nuclear industry as a firm that can make decommissioning a nuclear power plant profitable. Vermont will be its testing ground.

Will NorthStar do a great job to prove itself? Or will NorthStar sacrifice the environment and our health by leaving radioactive materials and other toxins in the ground so it can make a profit? Will it leave us holding the \$ bag for cleanup if it fails?

Yes, we want Vermont Yankee cleaned up in our lifetimes.

Speaking truth to power makes a difference.

Write to the VT Public Service Board, Docket #8880 or make public comments on line

Attend meetings of the Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Board (NDCAP)

NRC will hold a public meeting with NDCAP May 25 6-9pm

Brattleboro Area Middle Schools Multi-Purpose Room, 109 Sunny Acres Rd., Brattleboro

For more information, visit www.SafeandGreenCampaign.org and go to our Resources page



Whether we fought Vermont Yankee or supported it, we are the generation that is responsible for it. Prompt decommissioning gives us the opportunity to act as its stewards, rather than passing the financial, environmental, and public health burdens on to our children and grandchildren. Ethically, this is the right time. Now, we need to ensure the right people do the job.

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www.SafeandGreenCampaign.org**

The Safe and Green Campaign has identified decommissioning principles which the Public Service Board should follow. Here is a summary:

- *The safe and full restoration of the site for productive use.* NorthStar told the Public Service Board that if the Board does not approve the site clean up standards NorthStar has proposed, it will be a deal breaker. The clean up standards should be the best that can be accomplished for public health and the environment, not ones created to fit a budget projected by NorthStar.
- *An independent environmental assessment of the Vermont Yankee site.* We do not know what has been leaching into the soil and water over four decades. We don't want surprises that would give the new owners a justification for walking away, leaving Vermont shouldering massive legal costs to fight the company.
- *Holding the owner to the highest standards.* The Public Service Board is required to determine whether or not NorthStar will act as a "Fair Partner" in its dealings here. The Board should conduct "extreme vetting" of NorthStar's finances and the nature of its relationship with its team (AREVA, Waste Control Specialists, and Burns & McDonnell). Taxpayers and the environment must be shielded from the costs of any poor decisions they make. Vermont has already been subjected to enough poor decision making by Entergy. Entergy lied to cover up leaks and accidents. NorthStar needs to be strictly monitored during decommissioning and held accountable. The cost of independent monitoring by the state should be included in the cost of decommissioning and paid by NorthStar.
- *The best dry cask storage technology available today.* We recognize that there is no good solution to the problem of radioactive waste. The casks should allow for ongoing, remote, long-term monitoring of heat and radiation levels, like the ones used in Europe and Japan, and be contained in a building or bermed with soil. The site also needs tight security to protect it from attack or sabotage.
- *The long-term containment and safeguarding of all radioactive fuel rods removed from the reactor.* NorthStar's team includes Waste Control Specialists which owns a facility in Texas for processing and storing lower-level radioactive waste. They are in deep financial trouble currently.
- *The high level, radioactive nuclear waste should stay here Until the US has a final, safe depository for it, rather than be transported on shoddy infrastructure to someone else's back yard.*