NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING CITIZENS ADVISORY PANEL
PUBLIC SERVICE DEPARTMENT

Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel Annual Report to the Governor and the Vermont Legislature

2025

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Draft Version for Panel February 2026 Review
(Fully addresses 1/16 & 2/3 Public Service Commissioner & Panel Chair comments, along with additional Panelists' comments received through 2/12)

- Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel - 2025 Annual Report to the Governor of Vermont and the Energy Committees of the General Assembly

(House Energy & Digital Infrastructure, House Commerce & Economic Development, House Environment, and Senate Natural Resources & Energy Committees)

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1. Statutory Authority and Duties

The nineteen-member Vermont Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel ("NDCAP" or the "Panel") was established during the 2014 Legislative Session as part of Act 179 (Section E.233; pages 141 through 148 of the Act). Details on the original membership and duties of NDCAP were outlined in this Act, which is available online at: https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2014/Docs/ACTS/ACT179/ACT179%20As%20Enacted.pdf.

Current membership and duties of NDCAP were established during the 2021 Legislative Session as part of Act 54, (Section 13, pages 11 through 16 of the Act). Details on the current membership and duties of NDCAP are available online at: https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/fullchapter/18/034.

The list of current Panel members may be found in Figure 1-5 herein (effective December 1, 2025 and current as of January 15, 2026), as well as on the Panel's website, which may be found at:

https://publicservice.vermont.gov/electric/ndcap

This website is frequently referred to as the "NDCAP website" or the "Panel website" throughout this document.

Changes in Panel membership during 2025 may be discerned by reviewing the meeting minutes and meeting recordings available at the NDCAP website. Briefly, the following changes occurred in 2025:

- Kerrick Johnson, newly appointed Public Service Commissioner, assumed the duties of Acting Panel Chair in January, replacing former Commissioner June Tierney. (The Panel declined to elect a Chair at its December 2024 meeting.)
- VT State Senator Anne Watson was appointed as the Panel's Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy representative following former Senator Mark MacDonald's departure from the Senate.
- Jim Pinkerton was appointed as the Panel's second Town of Vernon Representative in January, replacing Todd Amato, who resigned from the Panel in early January.
- J. Randall (Randy) Pratt, Citizen Appointee of Governor Phil Scott, filled a vacancy that occurred in late 2023 due to the untimely passing of Stephen Skibniowsky.
- Lissa Weinmann (Panel Vice-Chair during 2025) was reappointed as one of two Vermont Senate President Pro Tempore citizen-appointees.
- Schuyler Gould, the second Vermont Senate President Pro Tempore citizen-appointee, filled a vacancy that occurred in October 2023 due to the departure of Emily Davis from the Panel.

Figure 1-5

Current Vermont Nuclear Decommissioning Citizen's Advisory Panel Members

(Effective December 8, 2025; listing current as of January 15, 2026)

- **Kerrick Johnson**, *Commissioner of Public Service, ex officio, Acting Panel Chair for 2025, Panel Vice-Chair for 2026*
- **Lissa Weinmann** *(Brattleboro, VT), Citizen Appointee of Senate President Pro Tempore Philip Baruth (through August 31, 2029), Panel Vice-Chair for 2025, NDCAP Federal Nuclear Waste Policy Committee Chair for 2025*
- **Jim Pinkerton**, *Second Representative for the Town of Vernon, VT, Panel Chair for 2026*
- **Dr. William Irwin**, *Department of Health, Radiological & Toxicological Sciences Program Chief, Designee for the Secretary of Human Services*
- **Patricia Coppolino**, *Department of Environmental Conservation, Waste Management and Prevention Division Environmental Program Manager, Designee for the Secretary of Natural Resources*
- **VT State Representative Laura Sibilia**, *Ranking Member of the House Committee on Energy & Technology*
- **VT State Senator Anne Watson**, *Chair of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Energy*
- **Corey Daniels**, *Senior ISFSI Manager, NorthStar Vermont Yankee*
- **David Pearson**, *Vice-President and Regional Manager, NorthStar Group Services*
- **Chris Campany**, *Executive Director of the Windham Regional Commission (WRC)*
- **Madeline Arms**, *First Representative for the Town of Vernon, VT*
- **Bob Leach** *(Brattleboro, VT), Citizen Appointee of Governor Phil Scott (through August 31, 2026)*
- **J. Randall (Randy) Pratt** *(Wolcott, VT), Citizen Appointee of Governor Phil Scott (through August 31, 2028)*
- **Schuyler Gould** *(Brattleboro, VT), Citizen Appointee of Senate President Pro Tempore Philip Baruth (through December 31, 2029)*
- **David Eastman, PhD** *(Guilford, VT)***,** *Citizen Appointee of Vermont Speaker of the House Jill Krowinski (through March 31, 2027)*
- **Marvin Resnikoff, PhD** *(Keane, NH), Representative for the Towns of Chesterfield, Hinsdale, Richmond, Swanzey, and Winchester, NH, Appointee of New Hampshire Governor Chris Sununu (Optional position for Quorum Purposes)*

- **VACANT,** *Designee for the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development*
- **VACANT**, *Citizen Appointee of Vermont Speaker of the House Jill Krowinski*
- **VACANT**, *Optional Representative for the Towns of Bernardston, Colrain, Gill, Greenfield, Leyden, Northfield, and Warwick, Massachusetts, Appointee of Massachusetts Governor's Office (Optional position for Quorum Purposes)*

As of January 15, 2026, three of the Panel's nineteen positions are vacant, specifically:

- One of the Vermont House Speaker citizen-appointees (vacant since October 2024)
- Designee for the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development (vacant since July 2025)
- The optional Panel representative for the Massachusetts towns near the Vermont Yankee site (vacant since late 2020)

2. NDCAP Charter

The NDCAP Charter was adopted on February 25, 2015 and was amended on May 26, 2016. The current Charter is available at: NDCAP_Charter_as_of_2016.05.26 and in Appendix D herein. The Charter is also available from links available on the NDCAP website main page.

No changes to the NDCAP Charter were made during 2025. However, minor changes to the NDCAP Charter may be necessary due to the changes in Panel membership and duties implemented in ACT 54 of the 2021 Legislative Session. Where any discrepancies between Act 54 language and NDCAP Charter exist, the Act 54 language takes precedence.

Additionally, in December 2020, NDCAP established a Federal Nuclear Waste Policy (FNWP) Committee. The FWNP Committee studies federal policy options for nuclear waste and considers how Vermont Yankee is situated within the national landscape. By methodically procuring input from Vermont's federal delegation, industry experts and other stakeholders, the Committee accordingly advances the learning goals of NDCAP. Should the Committee arrive at an affirmative policy position, the Committee will recommend that NDCAP adopt the advisory opinion, pursuant to the Panel's stated purpose, where: "NDCAP shall advise the Governor, General Assembly, the agencies of the state, and the public on issues related to decommissioning."

3. Meeting Highlights

In 2025, the NDCAP held three Panel meetings in May, September, and December. Additionally, the NDCAP FNWP Committee held two meetings during 2025, in February and November. All Panel and FNWP Committee meetings were open to the public and included opportunities for public comments throughout their proceedings. All 2025 NDCAP and FNWP Committee meetings were conducted entirely as webcasts, as is permitted by ACT 133 of the 2024 Vermont Legislature. All meeting webcasts were conducted via Zoom using services provided by Brattleboro Community Television (BCTV).

The May, September, and December Panel meetings included updates on recent VY decommissioning activities by both NorthStar and the several Vermont State Agencies involved in VY's decommissioning, namely:

- Vermont Public Service Department (PSD)
- Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)
- Vermont Department of Health (VDH)
- Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD)

Brief summaries of recent FNWP Committee activities were also provided. (Further details and meeting summaries of the FNWP Committee meetings held in 2025 are available in Section 11.B of this report.) Several issue-specific topics were also discussed at the Panel meetings. Opportunities

for discussion and comments from Panelists and the public on all covered topics were provided during each meeting. A summary of each Panel meeting is presented below.

The minutes of each meeting and links to meeting webcast recordings can be found on the NDCAP website (a dedicated section of the Public Service Department's website) at:
https://publicservice.vermont.gov/electric/ndcap

Meeting webcast recordings may also be found at:
https://www.brattleborotv.org/vt-nuclear-decommissioning-citizens-advisory-panel.

Additional information regarding VY's active decommissioning is available at the Public Service Department's "VY Decommissioning" website at:
https://publicservice.vermont.gov/public-advocacy/vermont-yankee-decommissioning.

May 12, 2025 Meeting

The Panel's first regular meeting of the year occurred on May 12. At this meeting, NorthStar and several State Agencies summarized VY decommissioning activities that occurred since the Panel's December 9, 2024 meeting. Additionally, representatives for the US Department of Energy (DOE) discussed the (VY) Spent Nuclear Fuel De-Inventory Report which was published in December 2024. DOE's presentation was provided prior to hearing the VY decommissioning status reports.

- **DOE Presentation on VY Spent Nuclear Fuel De-Inventory Report**

Dr. Sara Hogan and Steve Maheras from the US Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Nuclear Energy briefly introduced themselves as both working on DOE's several spent nuclear fuel transportation projects. They provided a presentation on DOE's recently published Vermont Yankee Spent Nuclear Fuel De-Inventory Report. This report identifies the possible modes of transportation and transportation routes that could be used to move VT Yankee's spent nuclear fuel inventory to the Geographic Center of the United States (GCUS). GCUS is used as a substitute destination for proposed spent nuclear fuel shipments since the United States does not currently have a national spent nuclear fuel repository. Identifying shipment options to GCUS assures that spent fuel can be shipped practically anywhere within the contiguous United States and allows shipment planning without a known destination. The report also enumerates the likely tasks that would be necessary to make spent nuclear fuel shipments from the VT Yankee site possible. The VT Yankee De-Inventory Report is available online at:

https://curie.pnnl.gov/system/files/VY%20Report%20No.%20RPT-3026151-000G_1.pdf

and via the Panel website in the "Meeting of May 12, 2025" section. The presentation slides for this discussion are also available in this Panel website section.

Dr. Hogan outlined DOE's "de-inventory" program in general. The DOE evaluates transportation infrastructure in the general vicinity of a nuclear power plant site to identify the potential methods that can be used to move a site's spent nuclear fuel inventory offsite, such as barge access, rail, or whether a heavy-haul truck route is necessary to get to rail (or is the only option). DOE engages with local stakeholders and site staff during this process. The next steps necessary to move spent fuel and Greater-Than-Class-C (GTCC) radioactive waste from a specific site are identified. The information gathered by DOE is given to an integrating contractor who then draws up recommendations on how a site's spent fuel and GTCC could be removed. The reports do not

represent DOE's plans for moving spent fuel; the reports are periodically updated as more information regarding site infrastructure becomes known.

In response to a question from Commissioner Johnson, Dr. Hogan noted that currently one contractor, Orano, creates the de-inventory reports. Thirteen (13) reports have been released thus far. All de-inventory reports are available to the public at:

https://curie.pnnl.gov/document/initial-site-specific-de-inventory-reports

The VY and San Onofre reports are the two most recent. The reports use a Multi-Attribute Utility Analysis (MUA) to identify the positive and negative aspects of each potential transportation route. Ranking of the attributes (30 metrics in total, described in the presentation slides) is used to identify several preferred routes.

Dr. Steve Maheras then discussed specifics for the VY report. The reports assume that one shipping campaign will be conducted to remove all spent fuel and GTCC from a specific site. VY has 58 spent fuel cannisters and 1 GTCC canister. Thirty-five of the 58 fuel cannisters use the HI-STAR (Holtec International) Multi-Purpose Cannister MPC-68M design; materials used in this design are not currently certified for transport but will be before any VY spent fuel moves occur. (The remaining 23 fuel cannisters are HI-STAR MPC-68 design, which are fully certified for spent fuel storage and transportation.) The VY report developed two "concept of operations" for potentially moving VY's fuel offsite: Direct Rail and Heavy Haul Truck (HHT) to Rail. In Direct Rail, rail transportation is exclusively used to move VY's fuel to its destination. After accounting for buffer rail cars and a Rail Escort Vehicle in the train's composition (aka, the "rail consist"), it is expected that each shipment will carry 5 cannisters. Creation of each rail consist is expected to take 16 days.

In the HHT to Rail concept of operations, VY fuel is initially trucked to a "transload site" where the shipments are then transferred to rail. The VY report identified two potential transload sites, one of which is Bellows Falls, VT. Once the trucked shipments are assembled onto a rail consist, the transportation continues to its destination exactly like it would for Direct Rail.

In response to a question from Panelist Marvin Resnikoff, it was noted that two potential transload sites near Bellows Falls, VT (Riverside Transload Center and Green Mountain Rail Yard) were identified. These were selected primarily to provide additional transportation options in case VY's onsite rail spur is no longer available when de-inventory shipments physically begin. In total, twenty-seven (27) potential shipment routes were identified. Five (5) potential routes were examined in detail as part of the MUA for VY: three Direct Rail Routes and two HHT to Rail Routes. The three selected rail routes consisted of one that rail carriers would likely pick, via Palmer, MA, one rail route predicted to be the minimum distance route, and the rail route predicted to be the minimum time route. The rail routes would need to comply with Federal Railroad Administration safety requirements (Rail Routing Rules). The HHT to Rail routes would need to comply with Vermont commercial vehicle permitting requirements in addition to the Federal Railroad Administration requirements. All five routes are quite similar when extended to the GCUS.

In response to a question from Panelist Bob Leach, the Direct Rail routes require between 33 and 35 hours of transit time to reach GCUS. The two HHT to Rail routes require 37 hours of transit time.

In response to a question from Commissioner Johnson, it was noted that in other de-inventory reports, the several selected routes for the MUA identified a clear favorite transportation / route

option. In VY's case, the five routes selected for the in-depth MUA scored similarly. The three Direct Rail routes have a small advantage over the HHT to Rail routes.

In response to questions from Panelist Marvin Resnikoff, it was reiterated that five (5) VY cannisters would ship in each rail shipment. VY's last shipment would only have four (4) cannisters, since there are 58 fuel cannisters and 1 GTCC canister at the site. Multiple rail carriers will be needed to complete the shipment. (There's no single carrier that can carry a shipment across the country.) All rail cars, excluding the locomotives, in a spent fuel rail consist must meet the same rail safety standard (AAR S-2043). To comply with these requirements, shipments require a dedicated train using railcars such as those qualified as part of DOE's ATLAS spent fuel transportation system. Normally, buffer cars are only required before the first and after the last railcar carrying spent fuel. However, there could be routes where some buffer cars will be needed between several of the spent fuel-carrying cars (based items such as bridge lengths and bridge loading requirements).

The de-inventory reports make several assumptions, including that spent fuel is only being shipped from one site at any given time, i.e., all shipments from VY would be completed before shipments from another nuclear power plant site would begin. No shipments from VY would occur while shipments were underway at another nuclear power plant site.

In response to a question from Vice-Chair Lissa Weinmann, it was reported that each VY spent fuel cask weighs roughly 300,000 pounds. The relatively short transit times result from the assuming GCUS as the destination with minimal time spent sitting in railyards because dedicated trains are being used (rather than mixed inventory, aka "manifest" trains).

An estimated total of 81 weeks would be needed to transport all cannisters from VY to the GCUS (5 casks per shipment, 15 days to load each train using 1 crew; 12 days if 2 crews are used).

In response to a question from Panelist Bob Leach, it was noted that VY's spent fuel will not be removed from the cannisters currently being used to store the fuel. The canisters will be removed from the protective concrete and steel casings holding the canisters, but the canisters themselves will be used as part of the shipping container systems. The transportation systems which carry the fuel canisters are shielded to limit radiological dose rates while in proximity to the canisters.

In response to a follow-up question from Vice-Chair Lissa Weinmann, the actual work of loading of fuel canisters into transportation systems will potentially be done by an independent vendor, possibly the transportation system manufacture or a company dedicated to loading spent fuel onto rail cars. The work would not necessarily be done by the fuel owner (currently NorthStar for VY's fuel).

In response to an additional question from Bob Leach, Panelist Corey Daniels (NorthStar representative) noted that the Vertical Cask Transporter used to move the VY's spent fuel storage systems (canisters inside protective overpacks) was sold to the South Texas Project and is no longer at VY.

In response to additional questions from Vice-Chair Lissa Weinmann, Corey Daniels (NorthStar) noted that loading fuel canisters onto railcars for transportation is a task that could be conducted at VY by NorthStar. The (estimated) $18.5 million cost for completing this task is part of the stranded fuel costs that NorthStar would then seek to recover from the DOE. Steve Maheras reported that responsibility (liability) for the spent fuel transfers to the DOE "at the fence line," i.e., once the fuel is off the VY property. However, the exact point of this transition from NorthStar to DOE responsibility

is something that would be set once the contract between DOE and the VY site owner at the time is finalized. The $18.5 million figure includes the actual transfer (transportation) of the fuel, so NorthStar would not be suing DOE for the full figure. $18.5 million is most of the cost to move the fuel.

In response to a follow-up question from Bob Leach, Steve Maheras reiterated that DOE takes responsibility for spent fuel once it crosses the VY site property line. Bob was concerned about language in Federal regulations governing spent fuel moves that implied that a plant owner maintains responsibility for spent fuel until it arrives at a recipient's site. DOE would take responsibility during fuel transportation and not after arrival at its destination.

Vice-Chair Lissa Weinmann asked when DOE considers a reactor decommissioning to be done. The DOE representatives did not have an answer, since completion of decommissioning is determined by the NRC and not DOE. Corey Daniels enumerated the several deadlines that the NRC considers before determining that a facility decommissioning is complete. Two of these tasks include completion of spent fuel removal from the site and demolition of the site's spent fuel storage facility (ISFSI).

While discussing DOE's last presentation slide, Steve Maheras noted that the De-Inventory Report also:

- Identifies site infrastructure improvements necessary for transitioning fuel to a transportation configuration
- Verifies all spent fuel and GTCC canisters comply with 10 CFR 71 requirements for transportation
- Selects transportation casks
- Establishes canister transportation pad location
- Sets canister shipment dates
- Establishes equipment needs for transportation
- Establishes onsite electrical power requirements for fuel transfer operations and implement these at plant ISFSI
- Refines relevant cost estimates
- Prepares site for transportation loadings

In response to a final question from Lissa Weinmann, it was noted that VY's fuel is stored in two types of (Holtec) canisters, the MPC-68 and the MPC-68M. These are very similar canisters that do not require separate preparation methods. In addressing a follow-up from Marvin Resnikoff, it was noted that some sites other than VY use substantially different canister types for storing similar fuel or even have different fuel types stored at the same site; the latter being particularly true for sites that have both PWRs and BWRs. These latter differences could require multiple transportation canister designs being used (but this would not be the case for VY). DOE's ATLAS railcar system is designed to carry all (17) transportation canister designs currently in use at US nuclear power plant sites.

- **During Public Questions on the VY De-Inventory Report,** the following additional points were noted:

In responding to a meeting chat question from Noah Wilson, neither the DOE officials nor the Panel's NorthStar representatives (Corey Daniels and David Pearson) expected any restrictions on

Connecticut River access near the VY site during spent fuel transportation operations. There is no option for barge operations at VY; rail or HHT operations would occur away from the riverfront.

Schuyler Gould (Citizens Awareness Network, Brattleboro, VT) asked what would happen to spent fuel canisters that are not qualified for transportation? Steve Maheras noted that these canisters are designed for spent fuel transportation, but they have not received NRC approval (i.e., gone through the paperwork) for use in transportation. It can take NRC 1 to 3 years to approve canisters for spent fuel transportation (i.e. add additional content – radioactive materials – that can be shipped) applications. The canister contents must only include materials specifically documented as acceptable in the NRC license (Certificate of Compliance) for the canister and cask designs. The license approval process adding approved materials was briefly described. The NRC routinely performs these approval activities for spent fuel storage and transportation systems. In a follow-up question, Schuyler asked what happens to a cask if it is carrying compromised material? Steve indicated that these concerns are monitored through spent fuel aging management programs. At Steve's request, Corey Daniels briefly described VY's spent fuel aging management program. Spent fuel storage and transportation are slow processes; all VY spent fuel canisters will meet all canister transportation requirements before any fuel is moved from VY.

In response to an additional Schuyler Gould follow-up question, other significant obstacles to spent fuel shipping include the sheer size of the transportation packages. Package size can sometime prohibit the use of the most direct transportation route. Railroads have route criteria (e.g. weight and height limits) that are evaluated before a shipment uses a proposed route. Schuyler noted that litigation surrounding the shipments will likely impact shipment schedules and possibly route selection. DOE is aware of these potential issues and is evaluating them. DOE does have programs that consult States and Tribal Organizations to collaborate on these issues.

In response to a question from Panelist Chris Campany, the DOE representatives noted that spent fuel shipments do currently occur around the US. The Navy regularly ships its spent fuel across the country. Additionally, DOE is planning a commercial spent fuel test canister shipment from the North Anna Nuclear Power Station in western Virginia to Idaho National Laboratory facilities for research purposes. This latter shipment will occur later this decade.

In response to a last-minute question from Vice-Chair Lissa Weinmann, it was clarified that the $18.5 million shipment cost estimate covers shipping all VY spent fuel to the Geographic Center of the United States (GCUS). The cost does not include the shipment container costs, which is common infrastructure for all shipments. As such, these costs are not allocated as those for a specific site.

- **NorthStar Update on VY Site Decommissioning Activities:**

Panelist Corey Daniels, NorthStar Senior ISFSI (spent fuel storage) Manager at Vermont Yankee, presented a summary of recent site decommissioning activities. The slides for this presentation are available from the Panel website in the "Meeting of May 12, 2025" section.

NorthStar's continuing priority is to safely do the job right, which will result in the work being done on time. NorthStar continues VY decommissioning work without an OSHA Recordable Lost Time Accident, with nearly 2 million person-hours worked since active decommissioning began in January 2019. No NRC cited violations have been issued at VY during this time. Current site work remains on schedule to complete VY's decommissioning well ahead of its 2030 deadline. The Reactor Building (RB) is the only power plant building still standing onsite. Progress on removing the last few RB components and final decontamination efforts within the RB's several floors were described. This included dismantling of the RB / Refueling Floor Bridge and Crane. Demolition of

the RB structure itself is expected to begin within the next several weeks. (RB structural steel removals began on May 27; RB structural concrete demolition began on July 15.) The demolition will progress slowly because of the RB's enhanced structural integrity. However, NorthStar is confident that the task is well-planned based on experience demolishing other robust structures onsite, such as the Advanced Off-Gas Building. Demolition of the RB will progress using a "safe, slow, smooth is fast" approach, starting with removing structural steel from the top of the building. No explosives would be used for RB demolition.

Outdoor site activities were also discussed. All initial non-radiological site characterization and remediation activities are complete. Some additional remediations remain. To date, no new Areas of Concern (AOCs) have been identified while conducting VY demolition activities. Additionally, the concrete slabs that held VY's original turbine have been removed.

Radioactive waste shipments were discussed. NorthStar anticipates shipping 10 to 12 railcars of radwaste per week (up considerably from previous reports) once RB concrete demolition begins. As of May 7, 29 radioactive waste shipments have occurred this year; 975 shipments have occurred since decommissioning started in January 2019.

- **In response to questions from Panel Vice-Chair Lissa Weinmann**, Schuyler Gould, and Ann Darling (members of the public from Brattleboro and East Hampton, MA, respectively) Corey Daniels provided the following additional details on current and upcoming VY Decommissioning work:

- RB structural demolition will begin in approximately 3-4 weeks, which roughly coincides with the end of Vernon Elementary's school year.
- Dust mitigation measures will be used throughout the RB demolition process.
- Several dust mitigation strategies will be used, as necessary. The primary mitigation method will be water sprays to keep the dust down. Personnel Protective Equipment (PPE) will also be used to limit workers' exposure to demolition dust.
- Below-grade spaces within the RB and Turbine Building footprints will be backfilled using clean fill and shot rock from offsite sources.

- **Public Service Department (PSD) Update on VY Site Decommissioning Activities:**

PSD Special Counsel Caroline Daniels outlined PSD's fiscal oversight of the VY Decommissioning project required by the MOU in effect as part of NorthStar's purchase of VY. At the request of Commissioner Johnson, Caroline also provided a brief outline of Panel duties. A summary of these duties is available in PSD's presentation slides (available on the Panel's website) and are also referenced in the Panel's Annual Report (see Sections 1 and 2 herein). Most of these duties are met by conducting a minimum of three public meetings per year that provide information to the public on VY's ongoing decommissioning with opportunities for public questions and comments. The PSD presentation also outlined the annual fiscal reporting requirements for the project that NorthStar must complete by March 31 of the following year.

PSD continues to coordinate with other State Agencies and Four Points Group (FPG) to assess project status and whether Nuclear Decommissioning Trust (NDT) reimbursement requests are consistent with the work completed. PSD also meets with NorthStar regularly to conduct any follow-up necessary on NorthStar's self-reporting. Regular site visits by FPG, PSD's consultants for overseeing the project, are conducted to observe completed work. The most recent visit occurred in

early May. These visits continue to show observed project progress that is consistent with that described in NorthStar's status reports.

Decommissioning and Site Restoration Trust Funds status reports were provided. Expenditure tracking and project progress reports are available from PSD's VY Decommissioning website at:

https://publicservice.vermont.gov/public-advocacy/vermont-yankee-decommissioning/

As of April 30, the projected cost to complete Decommissioning and License Termination is $59 million, but the current value of the Nuclear Decommissioning Trust (NDT) is $52.5Million; the Site Restoration Trust (SRT) value is $47.1 Million. The NDT and SRT are invested in US Treasury Bonds. The NDT and SRT values reflect the current worth of these bonds. If the bonds are held to maturity, as expected, their value will be sufficient to cover the current cost of decommissioning. PSD will continue monitoring the fund values. Overall, NorthStar appears to be on track to complete the project on schedule within the currently available funding. Additionally, NorthStar has met all End of Year 2024 reporting requirements.

- **Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) / Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Update on VY Site Decommissioning Activities:**

Graham Bradley from ANR / DEC Waste Management Division provided this presentation, the slides for which are available from the Panel website in the "Meeting of Meeting of May 12, 2025" section.

DEC's ongoing interactions with VT Yankee were briefly outlined (regular status calls, permit reviews, corrective action plan reviews, and some post-demolition surveys). These interactions have continued since the last presentation to NDCAP. Sampling programs for non-radiological contaminants continue to show no significant contamination issues at the VY site. No unexpected site contaminations have been identified thus far. ANR/DEC continues to work closely with NorthStar's remediation contractor, Haley & Aldrich, and DEC's consultant, Atlas, on plans for addressing potential contaminant issues at VY's previously identified AOCs. DEC continues to monitor onsite PFAS contaminations, with ongoing groundwater samplings and additional investigations along the site's rail spurs (AOC #16).

Remediation (shallow soil removal and disposal) was completed on May 7. Post-demolition surveys at the Construction Office Building slab site were completed in March with no substantial contamination detected. Routine renewals for site drinking water and stormwater permits continue.

More details on ANR / DEC activities related to VY decommissioning will be provided at future Panel meetings.

- **Panelist Questions on State Agencies' Reports:**

In response to a question from Panelist Marvin Resnikoff, Graham Bradley indicated that DEC is not currently planning to monitor air contamination at VY during the RB demolition. Air quality / particulate monitoring is often left to the companies managing the worksite (i.e., NorthStar in this case). Corey Daniels of NorthStar likely could provide details on the site's monitoring practices. Graham indicated he would check DEC's air contamination to see if any monitoring is needed. He will follow-up with appropriate DEC divisions to see if there are any relevant State requirements for particulate monitoring.

In response to questions from Vice-Chair Lissa Weinmann, Panelist Bill Irwin indicated that the VT Department of Health continues to conduct fence line radiological monitoring at VY. Additionally, VT Health has its own radiological monitoring station at Vernon Elementary School (which is across the street from VY) that is sampled daily. Radiological monitoring at Vernon Elementary has been conducted since 1968. NorthStar is required to conduct similar onsite radiological monitoring at VY. It was additionally noted that no substantial radiological doses have been seen from particulates at the site.

- **A subsequent public question received in the webcast chat**

asked about future ongoing environmental monitoring at VY should any onsite incidents occur. Bill Irwin indicated that Vermont has an agreement with the VY site owners for onsite monitoring. A new agreement will be needed once the NRC releases the site from its (facility) license requirements after plant demolition is complete. A new agreement would cover monitoring of the spent fuel storage.

- **Federal Nuclear Waste Policy (FNWP) Committee Update:**

Lissa Weinmann, Chair of the Panel's Federal Nuclear Waste Policy Committee, summarized the Committee's recent activities. The Committee met on February 24 with representatives from Vermont's Congressional delegation (Ethan Hinch from Senator Sanders' Office, Lukas Kauth from Senator Welch's Office, and Owen Doherty from Congresswoman Balint's Office), who outlined nuclear energy-related legislation that could be introduced in Congress this year. Also present at this meeting (as an invited speaker) was Amanda Shafer, a representative from California Congressman Mike Levin's office.

Congressman Levin's district includes the former San Onofre nuclear power station site, which has spent fuel storage casks "right on the ocean" near San Diego. Congressman Levin co-chairs the Congressional Spent Nuclear Fuel Solutions Caucus; Congresswoman Balint is a member of this caucus. Congressman Levin and the Caucus have been pushing legislation that would move San Onofre's spent fuel to a consolidated interim storage facility (away from the California coastline). The congressman hopes to reintroduce his Nuclear Waste Administration bill, which would create a federal agency separate from the Department of Energy to manage the US spent nuclear fuel inventory, which was one of the recommendations from the (2012) Blue Ribbon Commission formed by the Obama Administration. These actions will hopefully take on a new sense of urgency this year. The Committee will continue to watch for actions in this area.

The DOE is still holding meetings around the country through its consortia to move forward on the Consent-Based Siting program and generate communities' interest in hosting a spent fuel storage site. However, the first Trump Administration defunded Consent-Based Siting. That has not happened this time around; additionally, the Administration's pick for Secretary of Energy, Christoper Wright, is a nuclear power advocate. The Administration may want to show progress in spent nuclear fuel policy areas.

The Committee had planned on meeting this month but is currently figuring out what it will look at next. The Committee will likely look at the nuclear waste fund, since some proposed bills would reassign management of this ample federal funding. Senator Sanders' office especially is pursuing legislation that would bring more funding to communities such as ours that are currently storing nuclear waste.

- **Questions and Comments on the FNWP Committee Update:**

Panelist Bob Leach asked whether there was any more information on the two Interim Storage facilities that were licensed in Texas and New Mexico. Lissa noted that these facilities are the subject of a case before the US Supreme Court. We are still waiting for the Court's decision on whether the facilities' NRC licenses are valid. Both states have indicated that they do not want the facilities. If Consent-Based Siting processes were being followed here, neither facilities would move forward. However, these are private facilities at are not subject to rules that DOE would follow.

Lissa added that she had participated in one of the Consent Based Siting Consortia sessions that was held in Worcester, MA (at Clark University). The Keystone Consortia hosted the session which was led by Thomas Webler (who has previously spoken at NDCAP meetings). Key takeaways from this session mirrored NDCAP's advisory opinion on the need for progress on a deep geologic repository prior to selecting consolidated interim storage sites.

Panelist Chris Campany noted that he also attended the Keystone Consortia session held in Worcester. His takeaway was that the consent process was very important. Potential host communities need access to experts and information to assist them in decision making. Communities also need the ability to pull themselves out of the process if they feel that they are not in control of its decision making.

Ann Darling (Citizens Awareness Network) added that she also attended the Keystone Consortia session and concurs with Lissa and Chris' summaries of it. She was impressed to see attendees from "all over New England" with different backgrounds participating.

Lissa Weinmann added that she hopes to attend an additional consortia session that will take place in September, assuming she is available to attend. She will provide a report to the Panel on this latter session assuming she attends.

- **Panel Chair Status Discussion:**

Commissioner Johnson stated that he would like to turn over Panel Chair duties to someone else. State Nuclear Engineer Tony Leshinskie outlined qualifications for Panel Chair, namely, anyone currently serving on the Panel can serve as the Chair. Tony noted the Panel typically has a Chair and a Vice-Chair, with the Public Service Commissioner serving as a default Chair. The Panel also has the option of electing two Co-Chairs. No one volunteered when Commissioner Johnson asked if any Panelist was interested in becoming Chair.

In a follow-up question from Commissioner Johnson, Tony Leshinskie noted that there are currently five vacancies on the Panel: three citizen appointees, the Massachusetts (former Emergency Planning Zone) Towns Representative, and the Vermont Senate's appointee to the Panel. The last position became vacant after (former VT State Senator) Mark MacDonald was not reelected last Fall. The Senate's representative must be a member of the VT Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee. Commissioner Johnson stated that he has reached out to the Senate Committee to fill its Panel position. The Commissioner added that several additional names were being considered for the other open Panel positions.

Lissa Weinmann (Panel Vice-Chair) added that she is open to covering Panel Chair duties if Commissioner Johnson becomes unavailable.

September 22, 2025 Meeting

The September 22 meeting consisted of reports from NorthStar and several State Agencies on recent VY decommissioning activities.

- **NorthStar Update on VY Site Decommissioning Activities:**

NorthStar Panelist Corey Daniels summarized decommissioning activities completed since May 2025. (Slides for this presentation are available from the Panel's website.) NorthStar continues VY decommissioning work without an OSHA Recordable Lost Time Accident with over 2 million person-hours worked since starting active decommissioning in January 2019. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has issued no cited violations at VY during this time. The project remains on schedule to complete onsite demolition well ahead of the 2030 MOU completion commitment.

Structural demolition of the Reactor Building (RB) began in late May; completion of most of this work is expected by the end of this year. As shown in several photos included in NorthStar's presentation, demolition of the two top-most RB levels (the 345-foot and the 318-foot levels) have completed. Demolition began with the removal of the metal roof and walls surrounding the 345-foot level. Afterwards, two excavators were lifted onto the 345-foot level to begin RB concrete demolition. Clearing and downsizing of structural steel within the concrete and in the liners of RB structures such as the Dryer / Separator Pit, the Spent Fuel Pool and the Reactor Cavity / Drywell were performed as necessary.

Once most of the RB structure on the 345-foot level was demolished, the excavators were lowered to the 318-foot level to complete the 345-foot level demolition and begin wall and structures demolition on the 318-foot level. By the end of August, most of the 318-foot level has been demolished. The excavators were recently lowered to the RB 303-foot level (on September 3) to complete the 318-foot level demolition. With demolition of the 318-foot level nearing completion, the last remnants of the Dryer / Separator Pit and the Spent Fuel Pool are now gone. Work continues on clearing the last structures on the 303-foot level, mostly reinforced concrete and the reactor cavity structure.

Demolition will continue to the 280-foot level and then the 252-foot (ground) level. These latter levels will likely progress more slowly as they include the most robust portions of the RB structure – the bio-shield and the primary containment.

An additional, minor PFAS contamination from firefighting foam has been identified. NorthStar will work with ANR / DEC to assure that the contamination is appropriately remediated. In the worst case, onsite PFAS contaminations could result in a deed restriction on the VY site, but the contamination will be managed.

Radioactive waste shipments (to WCS Andrews, TX facilities) were discussed. NorthStar has been able to ship 10 to 20 railcars of radwaste per week, mostly RB concrete rubble and scrap steel, due to the availability of additional railcars. While nominally considered radioactive waste (because of its source), the number of curies (Ci) within the shipments is extremely small (no appreciable increase in the total number of curies shipped compared to prior years). As of September 17, 119 radioactive waste shipments have occurred this year; 1147 shipments have occurred since decommissioning started in January 2019.

- **Panelist Questions on NorthStar Report:**

In response to a question from VT Rep. Laura Sibilia, Corey Daniels noted that referring to VY's shipments as an "accelerated shipping campaign" was not a technical term. There are no additional reporting requirements due to the increased number of shipments leaving VY. More railcars became available, so NorthStar opted to increase the number of shipments from VY this year.

Panelist Marvin Resnikoff requested further details on whether there were any dust or particulate issues resulting from the RB demolition. Corey noted that there are three particulate monitoring stations at the periphery of the RB demolition. No dust or silica issues have been identified (as was the case in prior building tear downs). In response to a request for particulate levels, Corey Daniels indicated that he did not have any numbers to share at this time. However, the particulate values remain very near minimum detectable levels.

In response to a question from new Panelist Anne Watson, Corey Daniels described curies (Ci) as a measure of radioactive materials present (the number of nuclear decays / disintegrations per second detected). Additionally, Lissa Weinmann requested that NorthStar make its radiological monitoring reports available. In response, it was noted that these are made available to State Agencies. Lissa also requested VT Department of Health have someone, preferably Panelist Bill Irwin, attend all NDCAP meetings to be available for questions regarding VY radiological monitoring.

Panelist Bob Leach asked whether the large piles of concrete rubble he recently saw at site were encroaching on the Connecticut River. Corey Daniels noted that this was RB demolition rubble staged for offsite disposal. The material is still at least 100 feet from the river shoreline.

A Panelist discussion ensued regarding VY air quality monitoring, onsite PFAS contaminations, and the reporting of contaminant levels at VY by NorthStar and State Agencies staff at future NDCAP meetings. The primary concern was that, while radiological contaminant values are often reported, non-radiological contaminant values are not. Most reports note that values are minimal, but actual numbers are not provided. Numerical values are needed, especially as more indications of PFAS contaminations onsite are included in status reports. (Similar requests were made for air particulate data reports.) Several Panelists requested a deeper dive on PFAS contamination at VY, although they also noted that doing so risks falling into a "rabbit hole" on the subject. Panelist Trish Coppolino replied that ANR / DEC can provide a detailed PFAS presentation but noted that PFAS is not a large concern at VY since it is not expected that new drinking water wells will be drilled at the site. The primary concern for PFAS at VY is whether detectable values can reach the Connecticut River. ANR / DEC plans to continue monitoring PFAS levels at VY.

Corey Daniels added that PFAS monitoring and management at VY is still under development. The right people to address PFAS (both at NorthStar and the State Agencies) are continuing to work on this.

A Panel discussion on potential changes in regulatory oversight at VY also ensued. Recent expert staff departures at the NRC, DOE and EPA raise concerns on whether nuclear energy is receiving adequate regulation and whether this could adversely impact oversight of VY's decommissioning. Public Service Commissioner Kerrick Johnson was asked whether PSD was tracking. Commissioner Johnson responded that the Federal agencies monitoring VY still continued to do so. No noticeable holes in regulatory coverage have been seen. However, he will follow up with specifics at the next Panel meeting.

State Nuclear Engineer Tony Leshinskie added that he has been tracking staffing changes at both DOE and NRC since the start of the second Trump Administration. NRC changes are of primary concern since the NRC oversees VY activities. He reported that NRC staffing changes thus far have resulted in changes at senior management and technical consultant levels. The "front line" regulatory inspectors for nuclear facilities have not been impacted by these changes. To date, these have had little impact on the NRC's decommissioning inspection functions. He added that there have been no changes in the NRC inspectors conducting VY inspections due to changes at the NRC initiated by the Trump Administration. While the NRC's long-time decommissioning inspector for VY retired in May 2024, the NRC inspectors conducting VY site inspections in 2025 are the same inspectors that conducted VY site inspections in the latter half of 2024.

- **Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Update:**

Panelist Trish Coppolino, DEC Waste Management and Prevention Division Environmental Program Manager, briefly outlined DEC's ongoing interactions with VT Yankee (regular status calls, permit reviews, corrective action plan reviews, and some post-demolition surveys). These interactions have continued since the last presentation to NDCAP. DEC efforts in monitoring onsite PFAS sampling were discussed. Vermont's groundwater standard for five regulated PFAS substances is 20 parts per trillion (ppt). Some onsite PFAS concentrations downgradient of VY's leach fields have been measured between 60 and 72 ppt. One high PFAS concentration east of the RB ranges between 1,500 to 2,500 ppt. Some additional high concentrations on the west side of the Turbine Building footprint are indicative of fire-fighting foam used to extinguish a 2004 transformer fire. Trish indicated that DEC can provide more details on PFAS values detected at VY without bogging down in "rabbit holes" on the subject. She does expect that DEC's PFAS standards will continue to evolve as more is learned about the issue.

- **Public Service Department (PSD) Update:**

Before providing report details, PSD Special Counsel Caroline Daniels briefly outlined PSD's fiscal oversight of the VY Decommissioning project required by the MOU in effect as part of NorthStar's purchase of VY. PSD Consultant Nick Capik (of FPG, PSD's consultant for the VY Decommissioning Project) provided additional information, as needed. PSD's oversight was outlined similarly to that previously described during the Panel's May meeting. PSD coordinates with other State Agencies and FPG to assess project status and whether NDT reimbursement requests are consistent with the work completed. PSD also meets with NorthStar regularly to conduct any follow-up necessary on NorthStar's self-reporting. Regular site visits by FPG are conducted to observe completed work. Additionally, in July, NorthStar provided several PSD and DEC staff with a VY site tour and an in-depth discussion of the decommissioning project. The most recent visit occurred in early September. These visits continue to show observed project progress that is consistent with that described in NorthStar's status reports.

Updates on the Decommissioning and Site Restoration Trust Funds were provided. As of August 31, the projected cost to complete Decommissioning and License Termination is $46.7 million, but the current value of the Nuclear Decommissioning Trust (NDT) is $43.1Million; the Site Restoration Trust (SRT) value is $47.5 Million. The NDT and SRT are invested in US Treasury Bonds. The NDT and SRT values reflect the current worth of these bonds. If the bonds are held to maturity, as expected, their value will be sufficient to cover the current cost of decommissioning. PSD will continue to monitor the fund values. Overall, NorthStar remains on track to complete the project on schedule within the currently available funding.

➢ **In response to several Panelist questions** regarding the fiscal health of the VY Decommissioning project, PSD's Caroline Daniels (with additional information provided by Nick Capik), added that VY Decommissioning is being performed as a fixed price project. Because the remaining expenses are known, the Department and FPG have confidence that the NDT and SRT will be sufficient. Moreover, the funds are invested in Treasury Bills, which are held to maturity and will increase in value. Additionally, NorthStar is also required to maintain an escrow as contingency funding for the project. Jim Porter, PSD Director of Public Advocacy, added that PSD will be reexamining the VY Decommissioning Project MOU regarding its funding stipulations and can provide a Panel presentation on this if requested.

No public questions on the State Agencies reports were received.

➢ **During Discussion of FNWP Committee Activities** Lissa Weinmann, Chair of the Panel's Federal Nuclear Waste Policy Committee, discussed her nuclear policy-related activities since the Committee's February 24 meeting. She attended a Keystone Policy Institute Meeting held September 8 through 10 that was gathering information for DOE's Collaborative-Based Siting process for selection US spent nuclear fuel storage and disposal sites. DOE previously referred to this process as Consent-Based Siting.

Her key take away was that changes in Federal law are necessary if the US is to effectively address its spent fuel inventory. In discussions during the meeting, she reiterated the Panel's prior position on this issue, namely that a permanent spent fuel repository site needs to be identified before Consolidated Interim Storage Facilities can be selected. Issuing Panel Advisory Opinions on spent-fuel policy topics could help to move this effort along. Current Federal Administration efforts appear to be investigating whether the site selection process can be accelerated. Finland took 40 years to select its repository site; Canada's recent site selection was the culmination of a several decades effort.

The several groups sponsoring Collaborative-Based Siting process workshops are required to publish their findings in early 2026.

➢ **Plans for Next (December 8) Panel Meeting**

In response to the several Panel discussions that followed the NorthStar and State Agency status reports, the following commitments were made for the next Panel Meeting:

- Numerical values for non-radiological contaminants will be reported in status presentations
- More information be provided on what tasks remain after RB demolition is completed
- Include updates on NRC staffing changes affecting VY in regular reports

Additionally, Panel Vice-Chair Lissa Weinmann requested that VY's post-demolition physical conditions specified in the NorthStar Purchase MOU be reviewed and discussed.

State Nuclear Engineer Tony Leshinskie noted that several End of Year items would also need to be discussed at the December meeting, namely **Election of Panel Officers for 2026**, **Review and Approval of the Panel's Annual Report**, and scheduling of **Panel Meeting Dates** in 2026.

Commissioner Johnson and Tony Leshinskie both noted that having the Commissioner also cover Panel Chair duties can be burdensome. Having someone from the Panel is a substantial help to PSD's management of the Panel. While the duties themselves are not challenging, they are difficult

to fit into the Commissioner's schedule. Several Panelists noted their appreciation and satisfaction with Commissioner Johnson's meeting management skills and would be interested in his staying on as Chair.

Tony Leshinskie added that, as usual, he is working on the Panel's Annual Report draft. He will have a draft available for Panelist and Public review before the December meeting. There will be some follow-up work to be completed after that date based on what occurs during the Panel's December meeting. The report will also need to include several data points from NorthStar that become available in early January. But the bulk of the report will be available for Panel review and discussion during the December meeting.

Lastly, Tony Leshinskie noted that if the Panel wishes to continue with its "traditional" meeting dates, the Panel meeting dates in 2026 would be:

- May 11
- September 21
- December 7

Tony requested that Panelists seriously consider whether these are still reasonable dates for Panel meetings. With several substantial VY activities likely finishing in early 2026, should the Panel hold its first meeting earlier in the year (e.g. in February or March)? Meeting quorum for the May meeting has been difficult for the past several years. Is a later date in May better? Additionally, there are a few Panelists that have consistently missed the September meeting due to other conflicts (but are able to attend the Panel's other meetings). Should this date be changed? While answers to these questions are not needed immediately, Panelists should be prepared to discuss them at the December meeting.

December 8, 2025 Meeting

In addition to reports from NorthStar and several State Agencies on recent VY decommissioning activities, the December 8 meeting included a presentation by two staff members from Senator Peter Welch's Office discussing a newly reintroduced Congressional bill regarding nuclear plant decommissioning. The Panel's Annual Report was also discussed. Panel Officer Elections for the 2026 Calendar Year were conducted.

- **The Nuclear Plant Decommissioning Act (NPDA) of 2025:**

Bella Weston and Lukas Kauth, Energy Policy staff members from US Senator Peter Welch's Office, presented as summary of the Senator's proposed Nuclear Plant Decommissioning Act, which the Senator intends to introduce to the current Congress within the next several days. The NPDA of 2025, if approved, would make several important reforms to the power reactor decommissioning process. It would provide new support for Community Advisory Panels such as VT-NDCAP and would invest in economic development in nuclear host communities throughout the decommissioning process. Several of the bill's provisions include:

- NRC licensees would be required to consult with State and local communities impacted by decommissioning prior to submitting its Post-Shutdown Decommissioning Activities Report (PSDAR) to the NRC consultation would be required
- A minimum 90-day public comment period and at least 2 NRC public meetings would be required to solicit public feedback on a PSDAR submittal
- Community decommissioning advisory panels would be required rather than optional

- Grants would be available to the community advisory panels to cover expenses such as hiring independent experts, administrative and website maintenance costs, and contracting for panel services
- Opportunities for Economic Development Grants for communities impacted by a plant closure throughout the decommissioning process
- A $15/kilogram compensation for spent fuel storage within a nuclear host community.

Further details on the bill are available via the following link:
https://publicservice.vermont.gov/document/summary-draft-nuclear-plant-decommissioning-act-2025

The complete text of this bill is available at:
https://publicservice.vermont.gov/document/nuclear-plant-decommissioning-act-2025-draft

The NPDA of 2025 is an update to a bill that Senator Welch last introduced in 2020 when he was still Vermont's At-Large Congressman. The intent of the bill is to make assistance available to multiple communities surrounding a decommissioning power plant. Towns, states, and regional governments could apply.

Panel feedback on the bill was positive. It was noted that rural communities that often host nuclear power facilities frequently have difficulty getting economic development grants. Making the case, particularly for area housing, can be challenging for smaller communities.

Ms. Watson and Mr. Kauth request that the Panel consider endorsing the bill.

- **NorthStar Update on VY Site Decommissioning Activities:**

NorthStar Panelist Corey Daniels summarized decommissioning activities completed since September 2025. (Slides for this presentation are available from the Panel's website.) NorthStar continues VY decommissioning work without an OSHA Recordable Lost Time Accident since starting active decommissioning in January 2019. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has issued no cited violations at VY during this time. The project remains on schedule to complete onsite demolition in 2026. Structural demolition of the Reactor Building (RB) continues and is expected to complete in early 2026. It is expected that demolition of the RB will be down to site grade level by the end of the year.

Clearing of RB debris and material previously intended for an earthen ramp on the south side of the RB will continue through the first half of 2026. NorthStar's average number of waste / debris shipments to WCS Andrews County, TX facilities, which had been as high as 25 shipments per week earlier this year has slowed to 10 to 20 per week. The limiting factor on the number of shipments made per week is how many empty railcars arrive onsite that week. The average number of radioactive waste shipments leaving VY per week is expected to increase again in early 2026 as RB structural debris is cleared. As of December 8, 386 radioactive waste shipments have occurred this year; Nearly 1400 shipments have occurred since the start of decommissioning. NorthStar continues to meet regularly with State Agencies to discuss project status.

- **Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Update:**

Graham Bradley, Hazardous Sites Manager in DEC's Waste Management and Prevention Division outlined the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) / DEC's recent interactions with VY. (Slides for this presentation are available from the Panel's website.) Regular status calls, draft permits, and corrective action plan reviews continue. Sampling programs for non-radiological contaminants

continue. Several of DEC's presentation slides identify locations where PFAS have been identified at the VY site. Sampling for PFAS at the VY site continue. ANR/DEC continues to work closely with NorthStar's remediation contractor, Haley & Aldrich, and DEC's consultant, Atlas, on plans for addressing potential contaminant issues at VY's previously identified AOCs. DEC continues monitoring for onsite PFAS contaminations. Groundwater sampling along VY's rail spurs and in newly excavated spaces for PFAS continues.

Planning for remediation (mostly soil removal) along the site rail spur is in progress. Additional shallow soil removal and disposals occur as necessary. Routine renewals for site drinking water and stormwater permits are also underway.

- **Public Service Department (PSD) Update:**

PSD Special Counsel Caroline Daniels outlined PSD's fiscal oversight of the VY Decommissioning project required by the MOU in effect as part of NorthStar's purchase of VY. PSD Consultant Nick Capik (of FPG) was present to provide additional information, as needed. (Slides for this presentation are available from the Panel's website.) PSD's oversight was outlined similarly to that previously described during the September 22 meeting. PSD coordinates with other State Agencies and FPG to assess project status and whether Nuclear Decommissioning Trust (NDT) reimbursement requests are consistent with the work completed. PSD also meets with NorthStar regularly to conduct any follow-up necessary on NorthStar's self-reporting. Regular site visits by FPG are conducted to observe completed work. The most recent visit occurred during the first week of December. These visits continue to show observed project progress that is consistent with that described in NorthStar's status reports.

Updates on the Decommissioning and Site Restoration Trust Funds were provided. As of November 30, the projected cost to complete Decommissioning and License Termination is $35.2 million. The current value of the Nuclear Decommissioning Trust (NDT) is $33.0 Million; the Site Restoration Trust (SRT) value is $47.6 Million. The NDT and SRT are invested in US Treasury Bonds. The NDT and SRT values reflect the current worth of these bonds. If the bonds are held to maturity, as expected, their value will be sufficient to cover the current cost of decommissioning. PSD will continue to monitor the fund values. Overall, NorthStar is on track to complete the project ahead of schedule within the currently available funding.

- **Panel Questions on the NorthStar and State Agency Reports largely focused on the PFAS investigations.** Further details on DEC's monitoring of onsite PFAS contaminations were discussed in response to several Panelist questions. DEC continues to review the PFAS sampling results that were first discussed at the September 22 Panel meeting. Plans to address the 2000 parts-per-trillion (ppt) PFAS level identified in early September remain tentative, since investigation into this contamination continues. DEC continues to work to identify the source of this contamination, since 2000 ppt sample result is substantially higher than any level previously observed at the VY site. No PFAS has been detected at the location of the (circa 1990s) VY transformer fire. There is currently no estimate on the cost to remediate the contamination identified by the 2000 ppt sample result. Details on PFAS contaminations at the VY site are available through the anrvt.web.gov website.

This discussion also noted that any PFAS contaminated materials shipped to WCS waste disposal facilities in Andrews County, TX would be handled no differently than any other radioactive waste.

- **In response to several Panelist questions** regarding the fiscal health of the VY Decommissioning project, PSD's Caroline Daniels indicated that while much of the financial monitoring of the decommissioning project relies on information reported by VY's ownership

(NorthStar), PSD and its consultants (FPG) verify the reporting via site visits and independent evaluations as much as possible. FPG's Nick Capik reported that he regularly monitors NorthStar's actual expenditures against the fixed prices set for individual tasks in the 900+ item VY Decommissioning budget.

No public questions were received regarding the NorthStar and State Agency Reports

- **During Discussion of FNWP Committee Activities:** Because Lissa Weinmann, Chair of the Panel's Federal Nuclear Waste Policy Committee, was unable to attend tonight's meeting, Tony Leshinskie briefly summarized the Committee's November 17 meeting. Details of this meeting are available in Section 11.B of this report.

- **Draft Annual Report for 2025:** The current draft of the Panel's 2025 Annual Report to the Legislature, drafted by State Nuclear Engineer Tony Leshinskie, was discussed. It was agreed that Tony will provide an updated draft of the report for Panelist review in January (capturing end of year data and December 8 meeting discussions). The Panel will meet in February to review and approve this revised draft

- **Election of 2026 Panel Officers:** Before nominations for Panel Chair were opened, State Nuclear Engineer Tony Leshinskie reminded the Panel that having Commissioner Johnson continuing as default Panel Chair is not ideal given his required duties to the Panel and other commitments as Public Service Commissioner. Having someone else step forward would be helpful. It was also noted that the Panel Chair is assisted by PSD Staff (e.g. Tony Leshinskie and Caroline Daniels) in meeting preparations tasks.

Following nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair, Jim Pinkerton and Kerrick Johnson were elected as Panel Chair and Panel Vice-Chair, respectively, for 1-year terms. Commissioner Johnson and Lissa Weinmann were thanked for their efforts on behalf of the Panel in 2025.

- **In Discussing the Panel Meeting Schedule for 2026:** The Panel agreed to meet during the following months in 2026:

- February
- July
- November

It was suggested that the Panel consider reducing its number of required annual meetings since active decommissioning of the VY site is nearing completion. Further details regarding the Panel's discussion while setting its 2026 meeting dates are available in Section 12 of this report.

4. Major Milestones and Activities at the Vermont Yankee Site During 2025

•	1/6	Site Decommissioning Activities resume following Holiday Break.
•	1/6	Reactor Building (RB) Components & pipe removal resumes on all RB levels; Structural steel removal in RB Drywell resumes; Decontamination efforts resume on RB Refuel Floor and in Spent Fuel Pool; RB exterior ramp (to facilitate RB demolition) construction using crushed TB concrete and excavated materials resumes; Reactor Water Clean-Up Building basement clean-out resumes; Radioactive waste shipments via railcars resume.
•	1/13	First Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) onsite inspection of the year occurs (1/13 & 1/14).
•	1/13	RB exterior ramp construction placed on hold while NorthStar reassesses need for ramp
•	1/17	Spent Fuel Pool surface decontaminations completed.
•	1/20	RB decontamination efforts extended to former Torus spaces.
•	1/27	Decontamination efforts extended to all RB interior levels.
•	2/7	RB Drywell structural steel removal completed.
•	2/10	RB Drywell power washing (for decontamination) begins.
•	2/24	Second NRC onsite inspection of the year occurs (2/24 through 2/27).
•	3/3	RB Drywell sandblasting (for additional decontamination) begins.
•	3/4	NRC Second Half 2024 Inspection Report published – no reported issues, findings, or violations identified.
•	3/24	Water sampling points in below-grade Cooling Water Recirculating Pipeline drilled.
•	3/27	RB Drywell sandblasting completed.
•	4/7	RB exterior ramp construction resumes. Downsizing scrap from VY's original turbine resumes. Cooling Water Recirculating Pipeline sampling and inspection begins.
•	5/2	RB Drywell power washing (for decontamination) completed.
•	5/5	Demolition of concrete storage pads for VY's original turbine begins.
•	5/9	Downsizing of VY's original turbine completed.
•	5/12	Hardware upgrades to VY Spent Fuel Storage Security Systems begins.
•	5/15	Demolition of concrete storage pads for VY's original turbine completed.
•	5/16	Last planned RB hardware and component removals completed.
•	5/19	Preparations for RB structural demolition begin. RB Refueling Crane demolition begins.
•	5/19	RB exterior ramp construction re-evaluated. At least part of the ramp will now use shot rock brought onsite as fill within the Reactor and Turbine Building footprints. Discarded rubble and soil intended for RB ramp will be shipped to WCS facilities as railcar ballast.
•	5/27	Removal of RB Metal Roof begins (first RB structure demolition step); South side RB metal wall panels removed to facilitate RB Refueling Crane removal.
•	5/30	RB personnel elevator taken out of service. North side RB metal wall panels removal begins.
•	6/2	RB personnel elevator dismantling begins.
•	6/6	South side RB metal wall panels removal completed.
•	6/9	RB exterior ramp construction suspended for additional reevaluation.
•	6/11	RB Refueling Crane demolition completed.

•	6/16	West side RB metal wall panels removal begins.
•	6/17	Large excavator lifted to RB Refueling Floor (345-foot level) to begin RB concrete demolition.
•	6/18	Hardware upgrades to VY Spent Fuel Storage Security Systems completed.
•	6/23	Third NRC onsite inspection of the year occurs (6/23 through 6/26).
•	7/7	Second excavator lifted to RB Refueling Floor (345-foot level) for RB concrete demolition; East side RB metal wall panels removal begins.
•	7/14	Demolition of Reactor Water Clean-Up Building concrete remnants down to 4 feet below grade (248-foot level) begins.
•	7/15	Demolition of RB metal roof and metal walls completed.
•	7/15	RB structural concrete demolition begins on Refueling Floor (345-foot level).
•	7/18	Both large excavators moved to RB 318-foot level to complete concrete demolition of RB 345-foot level. Demolition of RB 318-foot level walls begins.
•	7/25	Demolition of Reactor Water Clean-Up Building concrete remnants down to 4 feet below grade completed.
•	7/31	NRC First Half 2025 Inspection Reports published – no reported issues, findings, or violations identified in 2025 site activities. However, a low-level, non-cited violation due to a September 2023 contamination incident was issued in one of the reports.
•	8/4	RB Dryer / Separator Pit and Spent Fuel Pool steel liner removals begin. Teardown of the former RB / Turbine Building (TB) Interface begins.
•	8/11	Fourth NRC onsite inspection of the year occurs (8/11 through 8/14).
•	8/21	Teardown of RB / TB Interface completed.
•	9/3	Both large excavators moved to RB 303-foot level to complete concrete demolition of RB 318-foot level. Demolition of RB 303-foot level walls begins.
•	9/12	Demolition of the RB 318-foot level completed; Demolition of RB 303-foot level continues.
•	10/1	Federal government shutdown begins; NRC inspection activities at decommissioning power plant sites (such as VY) curtailed.
•	10/7	Both large excavators moved to RB 280-foot level to complete concrete demolition of RB 303-foot level. Demolition of RB 280-foot level walls begins.
•	10/7	Small RB exterior ramp constructed (10/7 through 10/11) to expedite debris clearing from RB 280-foot level.
•	10/8	VY Central Alarm Station (CAS) Staff successfully completes drill demonstrating response to an onsite radiological emergency (Unusual Event).
•	10/11	Demolition of the RB 303-foot level completed; Demolition of RB 280-foot level continues.
•	10/27	Planned NRC onsite inspection (10/27 through 10/30) postponed due to Federal government shut down.
•	10/31	Demolition of the RB 280-foot level completed; Both large excavators moved to grade (RB 252-foot) level to complete demolition of above grade portions of the RB.
•	11/3	Tear-down of small RB exterior ramp begins; RB ramp material will be shipped to WCS Andrews, TX facilities as railcar ballast.
•	11/13	Federal government shutdown ends. All routine NRC site inspection activities resume.
•	12/9	Fifth NRC onsite inspection of the year occurs (12/9 through 12/11).
•	12/12	Demolition of RB Containment steel-liner and above-grade portions of the bio-shield completed; Demolition of RB 252-foot level walls continues; RB debris clearing continues.

•	12/22	Limited demolition work schedule implemented for remainder of 2025 (two full working days per week)
•	12/30	VY site demolition and decommissioning activities conclude for 2025.

5. Nuclear Decommissioning Trust (NDT) and Site Restoration Trust (SRT) Fund Updates *(based on the most recent data available for 2025)*

NDT		SRT	
$ 61.6 M	Balance on December 31, 2024	$ 46.5 M	Balance on December 31, 2024
$ 54.2 M	Balance on March 31, 2025	$ 46.6 M	Balance on March 31, 2025
$ 47.5 M	Balance on June 30, 2025	$ 47.0 M	Balance on June 30, 2025
$ 39.2 M	Balance on September 30, 2025	$ 47.4 M	Balance on September 30, 2025
$ 35.9 M	Balance on October 31, 2025	$ 47.5 M	Balance on October 31, 2025
$ 27.7 M	Balance on December 31, 2025	$ 47.7 M	Balance on December 31, 2025

Monthly balances for the NDT and SRT are available at:
https://publicservice.vermont.gov/public-advocacy/vermont-yankee-decommissioning/trust-balances

Summaries of monthly expenditures for the Vermont Yankee Decommissioning Project are available at:
https://publicservice.vermont.gov/public-advocacy/vermont-yankee-decommissioning/public-reports

The NDT and SRT are invested in US Treasury Bonds. The NDT and SRT values provided here reflect the worth of these bonds on the listed dates. If the bonds are held to maturity, as expected, their value will be greater than the values reported here. Several NDT and SRT values at bond maturity were reported to the Panel at its December 8 meeting. These values are available in the following presentation:
https://publicservice.vermont.gov/document/vt-public-service-department-december-2025-decommissioning-update

As of December 31, 2025, the NDT value would be $27.8 Million and the SRT value would be $47.7 Million if both funds were held to maturity.

6. Significant Vermont Yankee Site Changes

As noted in Section 7 herein, no significant changes to Vermont Yankee's spent fuel monitoring programs occurred during 2025. All Vermont Yankee site changes occurring in 2025 resulted from the continuation of decommissioning activities, which commenced on January 11, 2019.

Very few onsite structures remain standing at the VY site in 2025. These include:

- The Spent Fuel Storage Facility
- Several security-related structures (associated with the Spent Fuel Storage Facility)
- The Plant Support Building (PSB)
- The River Intake & Discharge Structures
- Near ground-level and below-grade remnants of the Reactor Building (which underwent substantial structural demolition during 2025)

RB demolition efforts throughout 2025 completed removal of the remaining abandoned reactor systems components, piping, conduits, and non-loadbearing walls within the RB interior. (Reactor Vessel removal was completed in October 2022.) Decontamination of the remaining RB interior surfaces continued as needed throughout the year. Demolition of the RB structure began in May 2025 and is nearing completion.

The remaining River Intake & Discharge Structures demolition tasks are expected in 2026. (Hardware removals within these structures mostly occurred in 2024.) Although construction of a large-scale gravel ramp (using concrete debris from prior-year site building demolitions) to aid in RB structural demolition was planned for 2025, reworking of the demolition methods eliminated the need for this ramp. Materials collected for ramp construction have been used as railcar ballast in waste shipments sent to WCS Andrews, TX disposal facilities throughout most of 2025.

Prior to the start of Reactor Building structural demolition, personnel access into the building occurred through a doorway cut into the northeast corner of the Reactor Building in late 2023. Following the start of RB demolition, RB access was restricted to essential demolition staff under specific circumstances. Radiation Protection Checkpoint functions are performed in Gatehouse #2 (as was implemented in 2022).

Other than pothole repair, no significant onsite road repairs occurred this year. Onsite rail spur maintenance occurred on an as-needed basis but did not impact radioactive waste and debris shipments to offsite facilities.

7. Spent Nuclear Fuel Status at Vermont Yankee

The last of VY's spent fuel inventory was transferred to dry cask storage on August 1, 2018. The VY Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) consists of a total of 3,880 spent fuel assemblies (used over the course of VY's 42 years of power generation) stored in 58 dry casks (shown in Figure 7-1). No changes in the configuration of VY's dry casks have occurred since the placement of the last spent fuel dry case in 2018. However, on October 19, 2022, an additional (59th) dry cask containing VY's Greater-Than-Class C (GTCC) low-level radioactive waste was added to the ISFSI. [This GTCC waste consists of several highly irradiated VY Reactor Vessel (RV) internal components which had been stored temporarily in VY's Spent Fuel Pool following their removal from the RV.] With this move, all VY GTCC waste resides at the VY ISFSI. VY's spent fuel will remain at the VY ISFSI until the US Department of Energy fulfills its obligation to provide a national spent nuclear fuel repository. VY's GTCC waste will remain at the VY ISFSI until a US radioactive waste disposal facility is licensed to accept GTCC waste. Current US Department of Energy estimates indicate that a national spent nuclear fuel and GTCC waste repository may not be available until the 2090s.

A total of 6 vacant cask spaces remain on VY's ISFSI pads. Four of these are required should the arrangement of the dry casks on the two ISFSI pads need to be changed for any reason. The remaining two spaces were designated for storing additional VY GTCC Low Level Radioactive Waste. Early (circa 2014) GTCC volume estimates suggested that VY could require as many as three GTCC waste casks. More refined estimates (circa 2018 and later) determined that only one GTCC waste cask would be necessary.

Monitoring of the Vermont Yankee Spent Nuclear Fuel is controlled from the site's Central Alarm Station (CAS) Building, which became operational on August 23, 2018. No significant changes to Vermont Yankee's spent fuel monitoring programs occurred during 2025.

Figure 7-1: Spent Nuclear Fuel Storage at the Vermont Yankee Site

8. Vermont Yankee Water Management Program

The VY site was under drought conditions for much of 2025. As a result, the in-leakage groundwater volume collected from the Reactor and Turbine Building footprints were much lower this year than in prior years.

- Roughly 157,123 gallons of in-leakage water shipped in 2025 (down from the 892,000 gallons shipped in 2024)
    - All VT Yankee water shipments were sent to Waste Control Specialists' (WCS) NRC-licensed disposal site in Andrews County, Texas during 2025.
    - In 2021, Vermont Yankee received NRC approval to ship up to 2,000,000 gallons of contaminated water to US Ecology Idaho's hazardous waste disposal facility in Grandview, Idaho. Water shipments conducted in 2023 and 2024 used 1,000,278 gallons of this permitted volume, leaving 999,722 gallons available for future shipments. No Vermont Yankee water shipments were sent to US Ecology Idaho facilities during 2025. Vermont Yankee was previously allowed to ship a total of 200,000 gallons of contaminated water to this facility, which was used in 2019 and 2020.
    - 7 in-leakage water shipments occurred in 2025; all shipments made were via tanker rail cars.
    - Combined, these 7 water shipments contained less than 2.5 microcuries of radioactive materials.
    - In-leakage water storage capacity at VY is used to hold the accumulated volume prior to shipment.
    - Shipments of groundwater from the Reactor and Turbine Building footprints to WCS and US Ecology Idaho facilities will continue "as needed" in 2026.
- A total of 4,341,000 gallons of in-leakage water have been shipped to date.
- No substantial Process Water inventory was generated at VY during 2025. Hence, no Process Water inventory shipped from VY during 2025.

Figure 8-1: A VT Yankee Water Shipment Leaving the Site

9. Decommissioning Waste Shipments Summary

A summary of radiological and hazardous waste shipments made from the Vermont Yankee site during 2025 follows. Photos depicting several stages in the waste shipment process are shown in Figures 9-1 through 9-5.

9.A Radioactive Waste Shipments Summary

An annual summary of Vermont Yankee's radioactive waste shipments is published in mid-May of the following calendar year as part of the "Radioactive Effluent Release Report" filed with the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Vermont Public Service Department. Preliminary radioactive waste volume data available as of January 12, 2026 indicates that approximately 1,109,766 cubic feet of radioactive waste was shipped from the Vermont Yankee site during 2025 (slightly more than the 1,028,000 cubic feet shipped in 2023 and nearly three times the 393,735 cubic feet shipped in 2024). The total weight of the waste shipped in 2025 was 83,086,398 pounds (~41,543 tons).

The total radiological activity of the shipped waste in 2025 is 3.16 curies (Ci). From the data below, this activity is significantly lower than those shipped in prior years during VY's active decommissioning:

Year	Total Shipped Activity (in curies)
2025	3.16
2024	62.8
2023	42.3
2022	7,500
2021	27,460
2020	522.8
2019	126.8

All radioactive waste shipments in 2025 were sent to Waste Control Specialists' (WCS) disposal facilities in Andrews County, Texas. 427 radioactive waste shipments (excluding contaminated water shipments) were made in 2025; all of which were made via railcar. No radioactive waste shipments were made by truck in 2025. Over 1363 radioactive waste shipments have occurred since the start of VY's active decommissioning in 2019.

Based on data provided by NorthStar in response to Panel questions in April 2021, the total activity of radioactive waste stored at the VT Yankee site is estimated as follows:

- Total activity stored at the VY Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI), consisting of 3880 spent fuel bundles stored in 58 spent fuel cannisters: 117,176,000 Ci (roughly 2,054,000 Ci per cannister).

- The Greater-than-Class-C radioactive waste cask stored on the VY ISFSI since October 2022 contains approximately 175,000 Ci.

9.B Hazardous Waste Shipments Summary

As of January 12, 2026, NorthStar Staff is still finalizing its 2025 Hazardous Waste Shipments summary. Preliminary values for 2025 are as follows:

- 72,780 pounds (36.39 Tons) of ferrous and non-ferrous scrap metal was shipped to Mattuchio Scrap Metal (Everett, MA) facilities for recycling.

These values are less than half of the final weights reported in 2024, namely:

- 184,760 pounds (92.38 Tons) of ferrous and non-ferrous scrap metal was shipped to Mattuchio Scrap Metal (Everett, MA) facilities for recycling.
- 13,000 pounds (6.5 Tons) of ferrous and non-ferrous scrap metal was shipped to Minchello Brothers (Lowell, MA) facilities.

Two asbestos shipments occurred in 2025, resulting in the removal of 185,500 pounds (5,880 cubic feet or 217.8 cubic yards by volume) of asbestos containing materials. This volume is less than half of the 587.8 cubic yards shipped in 2024.

Figure 9-1: Loading Rail Cars with VT Yankee Reactor Building Rubble

Figure 9-2: VT Yankee Waste Material Staged for Shipping

Figure 9-3: Loading VT Yankee Waste Material for Shipment

Figure 9-4: VT Yankee Waste Material Being Staged for Railroad Pick-Up

Figure 9-5: VT Yankee Radioactive Waste Shipment Using a Specialized Container

10. Vermont Congressional Delegation

Several Vermont Congressional Delegation energy policy staff members met with the NDCAP Federal Nuclear Waste Policy Committee on February 24 to discuss several spent fuel-related policy proposals before the current US Congress. Further details regarding this meeting are available in Section 11.B of this report.

Additionally, Bella Weston and Lukas Kauth of Senator Peter Welch's Office provided a presentation on the Senator's proposed Nuclear Plant Decommissioning Act at the December 8 Panel meeting. Further details regarding this presentation are available in Section 3 "December 8 Meeting Summary" section of this report.

11. Current NDCAP Committees

11.A NDCAP Issues Committee

The Issues Committee, formed in 2015 and reconstituted in 2019, is intended to provide recommendations for topics to be discussed at meetings of the Panel. The Issues Committee did not meet during 2025. For 2025, the Issues Committee's function (selection of meeting topics) was performed by the Panel at its regular meetings, with additional interactions between the Public Service Commissioner (acting as Panel Chair), the Panel Vice-Chair, and the State Nuclear Engineer as needed.

11.B NDCAP Federal Nuclear Waste Policy (FNWP) Committee

NDCAP created the Federal Nuclear Waste Policy Committee in December 2020 as a means for the Panel to learn more about US national spent nuclear fuel storage and disposal issues. The FNWP Committee develops recommendations on US nuclear waste policies for the full Panel to consider as potential Advisory Opinions on these subjects. The Committee currently consists of the following Panel members: Lissa Weinmann (Committee Chair), Corey Daniels, Maddy Arms, Marvin Resnikoff, and David Eastman. Additionally, Jim Pinkerton and Schuyler Gould joined the Committee in November. The Committee is administered by State Nuclear Engineer Tony Leshinskie.

The Committee met twice in 2025, in February and November, respectively. Both Committee meetings were conducted entirely as webcasts, as is permitted by ACT 133 of the 2024 Vermont Legislature. The meeting webcasts were conducted via Zoom using services provided by Brattleboro Community Television (BCTV). Both 2025 Committee's meetings featured guest speakers from individual nuclear waste policy stakeholders, which allowed the Committee to learn more about current US national spent nuclear fuel storage and disposal policies. Brief summaries for each meeting are included below. The Committee continued to compile a reading list of relevant materials. This list is available from the Committee's webpage at: https://publicservice.vermont.gov/public-advocacy/vermont-yankee-decommissioning/vt-ndcap-federal-nuclear-waste-policy.

This webpage also includes meeting recordings and presentations made during Committee meetings held in 2024 and 2025. Archive webpages are accessible from the Committee webpage documenting Committee activities, meeting recordings, and presentations provided in Committee meetings held in 2021, 2022, and 2023.

Additional summaries of the Committee's prior work are available in 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 Panel Annual Reports.

February 24, 2025 FNWP Committee Meeting
At this meeting, the Committee met with energy policy staff members from Vermont's Congressional Delegation, who outlined nuclear energy-related legislation that could be introduced in Congress this year. Speaking at this session were:

> **Ethan Hinch** - Energy Policy staff member from Senator Bernie Sanders' Office
> **Lukas Kauth** – Energy Policy staff member from Senator Peter Welch's Office
> **Thomas Renner** - Energy Policy and Public Outreach staff member from Congresswoman Becca Balint's Office.

Also attending this meeting (as an invited speaker) was **Amanda Shafer**, an Energy Policy staff member from California Congressman Mike Levin's (CA-49 District) office. Congressman Levin's district includes the former San Onofre nuclear power station site, which has 123 spent fuel storage cannisters located on Pacific Ocean beach front near San Clemente, CA (roughly equidistant between Los Angeles and San Diego).

A recording of this meeting is available at: **February 24, 2025 Meeting Recording**.

Congressman Levin co-chairs the Congressional Spent Nuclear Fuel Solutions Caucus, of which Vermont Congresswoman Balint is a member. Congressman Levin plans to reintroduce his **Nuclear Waste Administration** bill, which has bipartisan support. This bill would create a federal agency separate from the Department of Energy to manage the US spent nuclear fuel inventory. Creation of a separate agency to manage the US spent nuclear fuel inventory is one of the recommendations from the (2012) Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC) formed by the Obama Administration.

If passed, the Nuclear Waste Administration Act would modernize nuclear waste-related processes based on BRC and subsequent academic recommendations. The intent is to insulate nuclear waste disposal requirements from political processes. The Act would begin the (likely) multigenerational program needed for nuclear (spent fuel) waste disposal through consent-based processes. Additionally, the Act would explicitly call for Interim Storage Facilities (ISFs) and contains assurances that would prevent ISFs from becoming de facto permanent repositories. The Act would also restart Nuclear Waste Fund (NWF) collections and would grant access to NWF interest for spent fuel storage and disposal planning purposes. Further information on the Nuclear Waste Administration bill is available via the following links:

> Nuclear Waste Administration Act Press Release
> Nuclear Waste Administration Act Fact Sheet

The Vermont Delegation representatives then discussed nuclear energy issues currently of interest to the Delegation. Ethan Hinch noted that Senator Sanders anticipates that there will be policy uncertainties for roughly 6 months to a year as the Trump Administration makes several nuclear policy changes. The Trump Administration signaled interest in making nuclear policy changes by nominating Christopher Wright, a nuclear energy supporter, as Secretary of Energy.

The Delegation representatives indicated support for the pending rewrite of the NRC's Mission Statement ordered in the ADVANCE Act of 2024. It was noted that the passed version of the ADVANCE Act did not include funding for nuclear plant closure committees (such as NDCAP) as was

originally proposed. The Delegation is still interested in providing funding for such closure committees and "nuclear host" communities (such as Vernon, VT).

Before ending the February 24 meeting, the Committee members briefly brain-stormed ideas for future meetings, including learning more about potential community compensation for spent fuel storage. Dedicating a meeting on re-evaluating flooding analyses for ISFSI sites was also suggested.

November 17, 2025 FNWP Committee Meeting
At this meeting, the Committee met with Dan Stetson, Chair of the Community Engagement Panel for the decommissioning of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) Decommissioning Community Engagement Panel. Much like NDCAP, the SONGS Decommissioning Community Engagement Panel serves as a public information conduit and a community interface for the ongoing decommissioning at SONGS. These efforts include advocating for a functioning national nuclear waste management plan. Also attending this meeting was Manuel Camargo, Southern California Edison's liaison to the SONGS Community Engagement Panel and strategic planner for SONGS decommissioning.

Messrs. Stetson and Camargo provided an overview of their Engagement Panel's activities (many of which are similar to NDCAP's) and their Panel's composition (mostly local officials). Messrs. Stetson and Camargo primarily discussed their panel's growing coalition of communities and nuclear decommissioning stakeholders, known as the Spent Fuel Coalition, advocating for Consolidated Interim Spent Fuel Storage (CIS), the need for a deep geological spent fuel repository and a single-purpose Federal spent fuel management agency (spent fuel management is currently handled by multiple offices within US Department of Energy).

The presentation provided by Mr. Stetson during this meeting is available at:
November 17 FNWP Committee Meeting Presentation

A recording of this meeting is available at:
https://www.brattleborotv.org/vt-nuclear-decommissioning-citizens-advisory-panel/vt-ndcap-federal-nuclear-waste-policy-committee-mtg-11-17-25/

Messrs. Stetson and Camargo requested that VT-NDCAP consider joining the San Onofre Panel's Spent Fuel Coalition.

Near the conclusion of the meeting, the Committee members discussed dates and topics for its next meeting. The Committee set a tentative meeting date of February 2, 2026 to discuss revised nuclear fuel inventory policies that DOE is expected to publish by January 20 in response to several Trump Administration Executive Orders.

12. Meeting Schedule and Priorities for 2026

During the Panel's December 8 meeting, the Panel agreed to hold meetings in February, July and November of 2026. A specific date for the February meetings will be determined in January after polling Panel members. Specific dates for the April and November meetings will be discussed at the February Panel meeting. General topics for these meetings include:

- The February meeting will include a follow-up discussion regarding Senator Welch's proposed Nuclear Plant Decommissioning Act (discussed at the December 8 meeting), and a vote on final approval of the Panel's 2025 Annual Report.
- The July meeting will likely discuss the VY Decommissioning Project Annual Status Reports required by PUC Case 8880; additional agenda items to be determined as needed.
- The December meeting will likely discuss content require for the Panel's 2026 Annual Report, with additional agenda items to be determined as needed.

The Panel will continue to conduct its meetings as webcasts. Small physical meeting spaces will be made available for Panel meetings, if requested, on a case-by-case basis.

The Panel's main priority for 2026 will be to continue its work as outlined in the Panel Charter and required by the legislation that established the Panel's composition and duties. However, with the expectation that VY's active demolition should complete in 2026, the Panel will begin considering whether changes in its duties or its composition are appropriate to develop and recommend at this time.

13. Panel Composition and Duties Change Recommendations

As part of the Panel Duties outlined in Part II of the Panel Charter (see Section 2 of this Report), the Panel "shall assess further changes to the Panel's membership or duties as appropriate." The most recent changes in Panel composition and duties are those approved by the Legislature in Act 54 of the 2021 Session. The Panel anticipates discussing the merits of developing recommended changes to its composition and duties during its meetings in 2026 and should such recommendations be forthcoming, will communicate these to the Legislature and the Governor's Office once complete.

Appendix A: Panel Advisory Opinions Approved in 2025

No Advisory Opinions were approved in 2025.

Appendix B: Summary of Panel Expenditures During the 2025 Calendar Year

The Public Service Department (Public Service Commissioner) responsibilities for VT NDCAP administration are enumerated in 18 V.S.A §1700(g). 18 V.S.A §1700(g)(6) establishes a $35,000 annual (fiscal year) budget for VT NDCAP, to be billed to the owners of the VT Yankee site. Legislation establishing VT NDCAP is available at:

https://publicservice.vermont.gov/document/2021-vt-legislation-revising-ndcap-composition-duties-and-funding

or through Vermont Statutes Online at:

https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/chapter/18/034

A breakdown of Panel expenses incurred in the 2025 calendar year follows:

Meeting Space Rentals	$0.00
Meeting Webcast & Recording Services	$2500.00
Panelist Travel Reimbursements	$0.00
Total Panel Expenditures in CY 2025:	$2500.00

Appendix C: List of Acronyms Used in this Report

ANR	Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
AOC	Area of Concern (potential hazardous materials contamination location)
AOG	Advanced Off-Gas (system)
BCTV	Brattleboro Community Television
CAS	Central Alarm Station
CBS	Collaborative-Based Siting *(previously Consent-Based Siting)*
Ci	Curies *(a unit of radioactive material decay; 1 Ci = 37 billion radioactive decays / disintegrations per second, the decay rate of atoms within one gram of Radium-226)*
CISF	Consolidated Interim Storage Facility
DEC	Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (part of Agency of Natural Resources)
DOE	United States Department of Energy
DSP	Dryer / Separator Pit
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
FNWP	Federal Nuclear Waste Policy (an active VT NDCAP Committee)
FPG	Four Points Group (a PSD consultant for VT Yankee's decommissioning)
GCUS	Geographic Center of the United States
GTCC	Greater-than-Class-C (a type of low-level Radioactive Waste)
HEPA	High-Efficiency Particulate Air
HHT	Heavy-Haul Truck
IOG	Interim Off-Gas (system)
ISF	Interim Storage Facility
ISFSI	Interim Spent Fuel Storage Installation
LTP	License Termination Plan
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MUA	Multi-Attribute Utility Analysis
NDCAP	Vermont Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel (VT NDCAP also used)
NDT	Nuclear Decommissioning Trust (fund)
NRC	United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
NWPA	Nuclear Waste Policy Act
ORISE	Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education
OSHA	United States Occupational Safety and Hazards Administration
PCBs	Polychlorinated Biphenyl substances
PFAS	Per-Fluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances
PSD	Vermont Public Service Department
PSDAR	Post-Shutdown Decommissioning Activities Report
RB	Reactor Building
RFI	Request for Information
RV	Reactor Vessel

Appendix C: List of Acronyms Used in this Report *(continued)*

RWCU	Radioactive Waste Clean-Up (system)
RWS	Recirculating Water System
SFP	Spent Fuel Pool
SRT	Site Restoration Trust (Fund)
TB	Turbine Building
VOCs	Volatile Organic Compounds
VY	Vermont Yankee
WCS	Waste Control Specialists (a sister company to NorthStar)

Appendix D: Vermont Yankee Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel Charter

Adopted February 26, 2015
Amended May 26, 2016

I. Purpose

The Vermont Yankee Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel (NDCAP or Panel) is established pursuant to Title 18 of Vermont Statutes, Chapter 34, Sections 1700 -1702.[1] The NDCAP is to serve as a conduit for public information and education, to encourage open communication and community involvement in matters related to the decommissioning process of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station (VYNPS), and to receive written reports and presentations on the decommissioning of the Station at its regular meetings. The NDCAP shall advise the Governor, General Assembly, the agencies of the state, and the public on issues related to decommissioning. The Panel shall serve in an advisory capacity only and shall not have authority to direct decommissioning of the VYNPS. Although this charter expands on the language contained in the enabling statute, it is understood that the statute remains the ultimate authority.

II. Duties

Duties shall be:

- To receive written reports & presentations on the decommissioning at its regular meetings. The reports received by the NDCAP address decommissioning plans, including:
  - All Site Assessments
  - The Post-Shutdown Decommissioning Activities Report (PSDAR) and amendments
  - Periodic reports on the Decommissioning Trust Fund and other funds associated with Site Decommissioning and/or Site Restoration including fund balances, expenditures made & reimbursements received.
  - Any progress reports on decommissioning activities by Vermont Yankee as submitted to the Panel
- To provide a forum for receiving public comments on Vermont Yankee Decommissioning plans and reports
- To provide comments on plans and reports as the Panel may consider appropriate to the State Agencies and the Vermont Yankee owners
- To provide an annual report to the Governor & Energy Committees of the General Assembly due January 15, of the following year, which
  - Includes comments on received Decommissioning Plans & Reports, as the Panel may consider appropriate.
  - Shall assess further changes to the Panel's membership or duties as appropriate.
  - Shall include recommendations on such changes.

[1] http://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/fullchapter/18/034

III. Organization and Membership

A. Membership

- Secretary of Human Services or designee (ex officio)
- Secretary of Natural Resources or designee (ex officio)
- Commissioner of Public Service or designee (ex officio)
- Secretary of Commerce and Community Development or designee (ex officio)
- Representative of the Town of Vernon, selected by Vernon select board[2]
- Six members of the public – two each appointed by the Governor, The Speaker, and the Senate President Pro Tem. Under this subdivision, each appointing authority initially shall appoint a member a three-year term and a member a four-year term. Subsequent appointments under this subdivision shall be for terms of four years
- One representative of the Windham Regional Commission appointed by the Commission
- Two representatives of Vermont Yankee, selected by the owner of VYNPS
- One representative of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), selected by IBEW, who is a past or present employee at Vermont Yankee[2]
- One member representing the towns of Chesterfield, Hinsdale, Richmond, Swanzey, and Winchester, NH, appointed by the Governor of NH
- One member representing the towns of Bernardston, Colrain, Gill, Greenfield, Leyden, Northfield, and Warwick, MA, appointed by the Governor of MA
- One member of the House Committee on Natural Resources and Energy, chosen by the Speaker of the House
- One member of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy, chosen by the Committee on Committees

B. Officers

- The NDCAP shall have a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson or Co-Chairs elected by a majority vote of the Panelists.
- The Commissioner of the Public Service Department will serve as the Chair until the Panel elects a Chair or Co-Chairs.
- The Chair shall perform the following duties:
  - Call meetings of the NDCAP
  - Prepare and/or approve agendas for meetings
  - Preside at NDCAP meetings
  - Submit all recommendations adopted by the NDCAP to the Governor, Legislature, State Agencies and the plant owner
- Vice-Chairperson shall perform all the duties of the Chairperson in her/his absence.
- The term for the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson or co-chairs will be one year, or as otherwise determined by the Panel, but not for more than one year.

[2] **Act 54of the 2021 Legislative Session** (**Section 13, pages 11-16)** eliminated the IBEW representative from the Panel. A second representative of the Town of Vernon, selected by Vernon select board, was added to the Panel by this act. (The Charter language shown here matches the language last approved by the Panel in May 2016.)

C. Term of Membership
Ex officio members shall serve for the duration of their time in office or until a successor has been appointed. Members of the General Assembly shall be appointed for two years or until their successors are appointed, beginning on or before January 15 in the first year of the biennium. Representatives designated by ex officio members shall serve at the direction of the designating authority.

D. Designees:
Certain statutory positions on the Panel may to be represented by designees. It is understood that the preference is for designees to serve on a permanent basis, and that for the purposes of continuity, the use of alternates on a meeting-by-meeting basis is to be avoided.

E. Reimbursement:
Members of the NDCAP who are not ex officio members, employees of the State of Vermont, representatives of the VYNPS, or members representing towns outside Vermont, and who are not otherwise compensated or reimbursed for their attendance shall be entitled to $50.00 per diem and their necessary and actual expenses. Funds for this purpose shall come from the monies collected under 30 V.S.A. section 22 for the purpose of maintaining the Department of Public Service. Legislative members shall not be entitled to a per diem under this section for meetings while the General Assembly is in session.

F. Committees:
Committees, sub-committees or similar working groups will be designated by the Chairperson and Vice Chair or Co-Chairs as needed to carry out the work of the NDCAP and may include designees who are not members of the Panel. Such committees, sub-committees or working groups will serve at the discretion of the NDCAP as a whole. Every effort should be made to appoint members of the committees who represent the broad interests reflected on the NDCAP. Committees serve to support the NDCAP and may not themselves take action other than to advise or report to the Panel. Committees may seek participation by and presentation from other parties and the public. Committees of the NDCAP are likewise subject to all provisions of the Vermont Open Meeting Law.

G. Administration
- The Public Service Department, the Agency of Human Services, and the Agency of Natural Resources will furnish administrative support, with assistance from the owners of the VYNPS as the Commissioner of the Public Service may consider appropriate.
- The Commissioner of Public Service shall manage administrative support to the Panel, including:
    - Manage administrative support including scheduling meetings and securing meeting locations, providing public notice of meetings, producing minutes of meetings, and assisting in the compilation and production of the Panel's annual report
    - Inform Panel on status of decommissioning matters
    - Timely notify Panel of new decommissioning information
    - Upon request, provide all Panel members with all relevant information within Public Service Department control.
    - Provide workshops, training for Panel members, as appropriate.
    - Hire experts, contract for services, and provide for materials and other reasonable and necessary expenses of the Panel as the Commissioner may consider appropriate on request of the Panel from time to time.

IV. Meetings

A. Frequency: The NDCAP will meet a minimum of four times a year[3], although additional meetings can be called at the Chair's or Co-Chairs' discretion or by request of a minimum of five of the NDCAP members via the Chair or Co-Chairs. Meetings will be announced a minimum of two days in advance. The Chair, Co-Chairs, or at least five Panel members may call a special meeting with a minimum of one day advance notice.

B. Agendas: The agenda will be drafted by the Chair and Vice-chair or Co-chairs with input from other members. Issues brought before the NDCAP that are not on the meeting agenda must be considered as the first item of business, and if discussed, any action should be deferred to a later meeting unless urgent.

C. Quorum: A majority of members will constitute a quorum for a meeting of the NDCAP at which a vote or other official action is to be taken. In the absence of a quorum, the NDCAP may convene the meeting and adjourn until such time as a quorum is present. No official action may be undertaken by the NDCAP at a meeting that lacks a quorum.

D. Virtual Meetings: As long as the requirements of the open meeting laws are met, the Panel may conduct business and vote to take an action at a regular, special or emergency meeting by electronic or other means without being physically present at a designated meeting location. In this situation the Panel will follow all the requirements outlined in *1 V.S.A. § 312(a)(2)*.

E. Public Access: In order to serve as a conduit for public information and education on and to encourage community involvement in matters related to the decommissioning of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station, the Vermont Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel (VNDCAP) will make reasonable accommodations to facilitate access to Panel meetings by those who are unable to attend in person. This may include live streaming of meeting audio via the internet, access by conference phone, or similar means."

V. Decision-making Process

A. The NDCAP will strive to reach consensus on key issues by conducting their deliberations through dialogue and joint learning.[4] Consensus means that the group strives to clarify disagreements and tries to work through them to reach agreement on options that everyone can "live with."[5]

B. To work towards consensus, the Panelists will:

- engage in a thoughtful, thorough deliberation
- advocate for the interests of his/her agency or constituency
- share relevant information with the other group members

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[3] **Act 54of the 2021 Legislative Session** (**Section 13, pages 11-16)** reduced the minimum number of Panel meetings per year requirement from four (4) to three (3). The Charter language shown here matches the language last approved by the Panel in May 2016.

[4] **Joint learning** means that there are opportunities for people to learn from trusted and credible sources about the science and technology and to learn about the concerns, perspectives, and needs of all interested and affected parties.

[5] **Consensus does not mean** that decisions devolve to the least offensive solutions. If managed skillfully, the process of building consensus can generate a better understanding of alternative perceptions of the problem, identify options for solving the problem that are innovative and have not been considered before, and create more value for all stakeholders involved.

- keep constituencies informed and advocate within constituent organizations for support of the group's work
- keep the group informed about constituent perspectives
- work to identify promising and innovative options
- openly discuss and evaluate those options
- refrain from undermining group recommendations and reports

C. However, if consensus cannot be achieved on key issues within a reasonable timeframe as determined by the Chair or Co-chairs, the Panel shall act by majority vote of its entire membership & only at meetings called by the Chair, Co-Chairs or by any 5 Panelists.

D. Minority reports will be part of the NDCAP record.

E. Roberts Rules of Order will govern all NDCAP meetings.

VI. Public Engagement and Transparency

A. All NDCAP meetings will be open to the public.

B. Comments will be solicited from the public in attendance at least once during the meeting and more often at the discretion of the Chair and Co-Chairs.

C. Written comments may be submitted at any time. Provisions will be made to solicit and take into account written comments from all interested stakeholders on NDCAP reports. To the extent practical, the NDCAP will explain how comments from the public were considered in written recommendations or reports.

D. Minutes shall be kept of all NDCAP meetings and will include a record of members present, a complete and accurate description of matters discussed and conclusions reached, and copies of all reports received, issued or approved by the NDCAP. Draft minutes shall be posted on the PSD website within five days of the meeting. Minutes will be adopted by the next scheduled NDCAP meeting.

E. The records of the NDCAP consist of this Charter, meeting agendas, meeting minutes, reports submitted to or drafted by the NDCAP, studies made available to or prepared by the NDCAP, correspondence related to substantive issues under consideration by the NDCAP. All such records shall be made available to the public on request.

F. The NDCAP may provide opportunities outside of formal meetings for information sharing and dialogue with stakeholders.

VII. Communication

Whenever feasible electronic mail will be the preferred method of communicating administrative issues with and among NDCAP members.