

### **S.3441, Nuclear Plant Decommissioning Act of 2025**

U.S. Senator Peter Welch first introduced the Nuclear Plant Decommissioning Act (NPDA) in 2014 as a member of the House; Sen. Sanders led companion legislation in the Senate. The bill was written in the midst of the decommissioning of the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant in Vernon, VT, which permanently ceased operations in 2014. After subsequent biannual introductions, the bill was last introduced in 2020 during the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress.

The goals of this bill are threefold:

1. Improve community engagement and enhance state and local authorities during the nuclear decommissioning process.
2. Invest in regions where nuclear power plants have recently closed.
3. Ensure communities that currently host stranded nuclear waste are fairly compensated.

#### ***Section by Section***

##### **Sec. 1 – Post Shutdown Decommissioning Activity Reports**

This section enhances state and local input during the process of developing post-shutdown decommissioning activity reports (PSDARs). Licensees would be required to hold a minimum of 2 public meetings to solicit feedback on a proposed PSDAR, which would also be opened to a 90-day public comment period. States would then have the opportunity to issue a statement of support, statement of conditional support pending recommended amendments, or a statement of opposition to a proposed PSDAR.

##### **Sec. 2 – Community Advisory Board Grants**

This section provides \$12,500,000 for States to support the activities of community advisory boards (CABs), organizations aimed at fostering communication between a licensee and members of a community that will be impacted by decommissioning. CABs may use grant funding to consult with experts, cover administrative costs and travel expenses, maintain a website or other online presence, prepare reports, reimburse volunteers, or other necessary expenses. The bill also establishes a CAB Fund, paid into by licensees, to award grants to States to support these organizations.

##### **Sec. 3 – Nuclear Closure Community Assistance**

This section authorizes \$35,000,000 for the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) to support economic development in nuclear closure communities.

##### **Sec. 4 – Stranded Nuclear Waste Grants**

This section establishes a grant program to provide financial compensation for communities that host stranded nuclear waste. Communities are compensated at a rate of \$15 per kilogram of spent nuclear fuel stored in a decommissioned nuclear power plant.

##### **Sec. 5 – Economic Development in Closure Communities**

This section establishes an economic recovery account administered by EDA to support the economic development in nuclear closure communities, funded by licensees in addition to contributions to a plant's nuclear decommissioning trust. Funds will be made available at least 5 years before the scheduled shutdown of a plant.