



**NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING CITIZENS ADVISORY PANEL  
PUBLIC SERVICE DEPARTMENT**

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

**2024**

Published: January 2025

1                                   **- Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel -**  
2                                   **2024 Annual Report to the Governor of Vermont and the**  
3                                   **Energy Committees of the General Assembly**  
4                                   (House Energy & Digital Infrastructure,  
5                                   House Commerce & Economic Development,  
6                                   House Environment, and  
7                                   Senate Natural Resources & Energy Committees)  
8

9 **I. Statutory Authority and Duties**

10  
11 The nineteen-member Vermont Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel (“NDCAP” or  
12 the “Panel”) was established during the 2014 Legislative Session as part of Act 179 (Section E.233;  
13 pages 141 through 148 of the Act). Details on the original membership and duties of NDCAP were  
14 outlined in this Act., which is available online at:

15 <https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2014/Docs/ACTS/ACT179/ACT179%20As%20Enacted.pdf>  
16  
17

18 Current membership and duties of NDCAP were established during the 2021 Legislative Session  
19 as part of Act 54, (Section 13, pages 11 through 16 of the Act). Details on the current membership  
20 and duties of NDCAP are available online at:

21 <https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/fullchapter/18/034>  
22

23 The list of current members of the Panel may be found at:

24 [http://publicservice.vermont.gov/vermont-nuclear-decommissioning-citizens-advisory-](http://publicservice.vermont.gov/vermont-nuclear-decommissioning-citizens-advisory-panel-vt-ndcap)  
25 [panel-vt-ndcap](http://publicservice.vermont.gov/vermont-nuclear-decommissioning-citizens-advisory-panel-vt-ndcap) (aka, the NDCAP website). Changes in Panel membership during 2024 may be  
26 discerned by reviewing the meeting minutes and meeting recordings available at the NDCAP  
27 website. As of November 8, four of the Panel’s nineteen positions are vacant. The vacancies  
28 currently consist of:

- 29       • One of the Governor of Vermont citizen-appointees (vacant since September 2023)
- 30       • One of the Vermont Senate President Pro Tempore citizen-appointees (vacant since  
31       October 2023).
- 32       • The optional Panel representative for the Massachusetts towns near the Vermont Yankee  
33       site (vacant since late 2020)
- 34       • One of the Vermont House Speaker citizen-appointees (vacant with the expiration of  
35       Marvin Resnikoff’s term at the end of September)

36 The optional Panel representative for the New Hampshire towns near the Vermont Yankee site  
37 was vacant for most of 2024. Marvin Resnikoff was appointed to fill this position on October 16.  
38

39 The NDCAP website is currently available at:

40 [http://publicservice.vermont.gov/vermont-nuclear-decommissioning-citizens-advisory-panel-vt-](http://publicservice.vermont.gov/vermont-nuclear-decommissioning-citizens-advisory-panel-vt-ndcap)  
41 [ndcap](http://publicservice.vermont.gov/vermont-nuclear-decommissioning-citizens-advisory-panel-vt-ndcap).

42  
43 Prior to December 2022, the NDCAP website was available at:  
44 <http://publicservice.vermont.gov/electric/ndcap>. In instances where Panel documents, including  
45 previous Annual Reports, reference this older website, the newer  
46 <http://publicservice.vermont.gov/vermont-nuclear-decommissioning-citizens-advisory-panel-vt-ndcap>  
47 website should be accessed instead. Attempts to access the older website will be  
48 automatically redirected to the current website.

49

## 50 **II. Charter**

51

52 The NDCAP Charter was adopted on February 25, 2015 and was amended on May 26, 2016. The  
53 current Charter is available at: [NDCAP Charter as of 2016.05.26](#). The Charter is also available on  
54 the NDCAP website Main Page at:

55 [http://publicservice.vermont.gov/vermont-nuclear-decommissioning-citizens-advisory-  
56 panel-vt-ndcap](http://publicservice.vermont.gov/vermont-nuclear-decommissioning-citizens-advisory-panel-vt-ndcap)

57

58 No changes to the NDCAP Charter were made during 2024. However, changes to the NDCAP  
59 Charter may be necessary due to the changes in Panel membership and duties implemented in  
60 [ACT 54 of the 2021 Legislative Session](#). Where any discrepancies between Act 54 language and  
61 NDCAP Charter exist, the Act 54 language takes precedence.

62

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

71

## 72 **III. Meeting Highlights**

73

74 The NDCAP held three Full Panel meetings in 2024; meetings were held in May, September, and  
75 December. Additionally, the NDCAP FNWP Committee held four meetings in 2024. FNWP  
76 Committee meetings were held in March, June, September, and December. All Full Panel and  
77 FNWP Committee meetings were open to the public and opportunities for public comments were  
78 provided. All 2024 NDCAP meetings held prior to June 1 were conducted entirely as webcasts, as  
79 was permitted by [ACT 1 of the 2023 Legislative Session](#). After June 1, physical meeting spaces  
80 were designated for all NDCAP meetings. Remote access to all 2024 NDCAP meetings was  
81 available via webcast. Full Panel webcasts were conducted via Zoom using services provided by  
82 Brattleboro Community Television (BCTV). FNWP Committee webcasts were conducted and  
83 recorded using Microsoft Teams.

84

85 All Full Panel meetings were chaired by Chris Campany, the Panel’s elected Chair for 2024. All  
86 FNWP Committee meetings were chaired by Panel Vice-Chair Lissa Weinmann since she was also  
87 the FNWP Committee Chair for 2024.  
88

89 The May, September, and December Full Panel meetings included updates on recent VY  
90 decommissioning activities by both NorthStar and the State of Vermont. Brief summaries of  
91 recent FNWP Committee activities were also provided. (Further details on FNWP Committee  
92 activities are available in Section XI.B of this report.) Several issue-specific topics were also  
93 discussed at these meetings. Opportunities for discussion and comments from Panelists and the  
94 public on all covered topics were provided during each meeting. A summary of each Full Panel  
95 meeting is presented below.  
96

97 The minutes of each meeting can be found on the NDCAP website (a dedicated section of the  
98 Public Service Department’s recently upgraded website) at  
99 <http://publicservice.vermont.gov/vermont-nuclear-decommissioning-citizens-advisory-panel-vt-ndcap>. A complete video or webcast recording for each meeting can be found at:  
100 <https://www.brattleborotv.org/vt-nuclear-decommissioning-citizens-advisory-panel>.  
101  
102

103 Links to these video recordings are also available through the NDCAP website. Additional  
104 information regarding VY’s active decommissioning is available at the Public Service  
105 Department’s “VY Decommissioning” website at: <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/public-advocacy/vermont-yankee-decommissioning>.  
106  
107

108 Further details and meeting summaries of the FNWP Committee meetings held in 2024 are  
109 available in Section XI.B of this report.  
110  
111

## 112 **May 13, 2024**

113

114 The Panel’s first regular meeting of the year occurred on May 13. At this meeting, NorthStar and  
115 several State Agencies summarized VY decommissioning activities that occurred since the Panel’s  
116 December 11, 2023 meeting.  
117

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

119 Panelist Corey Daniels, VY’s Senior Spent Fuel Storage Manager, summarized decommissioning  
120 activities completed since December 2023. (Slides for this presentation are available from the  
121 Panel’s website.) NorthStar continues VY decommissioning work without an OSHA Recordable  
122 Lost Time Accident since starting VT Yankee’s active decommissioning in January 2019. The  
123 Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has issued no cited violations during this time. The  
124 project remains on schedule to complete onsite demolitions in 2026. The Reactor Building (RB) is  
125 the only power plant building still standing onsite. Demolition of the Turbine Building (TB) has  
126 completed, which required establishing a new RB Entry / Exit location (Checkpoint) using sea-  
127 land containers located at the building’s northeast corner. Progress on dismantling RB

128 components was described. This includes final clean-out and decontamination of RB Torus  
129 basement. Some interior RB walls have been partially demolished to facilitate removal of the  
130 remaining interior components and piping. Piping that was imbedded within several RB interior  
131 walls is being cut out as part of the preparation for RB demolition.  
132

133 Construction of an earthen ramp on the south side of the RB was discussed. The ramp will  
134 allow heavy equipment to reach the upper levels of the RB exterior. A hole will be punched  
135 into the south exterior RB wall. This will facilitate large demolition equipment access to the  
136 RB interior for structural demolition.  
137

138 Remediation activities (mostly separation and removal of contaminated soil) to address diesel  
139 and heating oil fuel spills in site Areas of Concern (AOCs) #5 and #7A were described. (These  
140 spills occurred during VY's operational lifetime.) To date, no new AOCs have been identified  
141 because of VY demolition activities.  
142

143 Outdoor site activities were also discussed, including the ongoing segmentation and disposal of  
144 VY's spare Turbine. The slab for the former radwaste compactor room is being removed.  
145 Weekly visual inspections of the onsite rail spur were noted, as was the placement of several  
146 new onsite groundwater monitoring wells. Development of the site's post-decommissioning  
147 water monitoring program has begun.  
148

149 Radioactive waste shipment packaging, including grouting efforts (for package stability and  
150 particulate control), were discussed. NorthStar is averaging 4 to 5 radioactive waste shipments  
151 per week. As of May 1, 84 radioactive waste shipments have occurred this year; 852 shipments  
152 have occurred since decommissioning started in January 2019.  
153

154 • **Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Update:**

155 Graham Bradley, Hazardous Sites Manager in DEC's Waste Management and Prevention Division  
156 outlined the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) / DEC's recent interactions with VY. (Slides for  
157 this presentation are available from the Panel's website.)  
158

159 DEC's ongoing interactions with VT Yankee were briefly outlined (regular status calls, permit  
160 reviews, corrective action plan reviews, and some post-demolition surveys). Sampling programs  
161 for non-radiological contaminants continue to show no significant contamination issues at the VY  
162 site, nor have any unexpected site contaminations been identified. Per-Fluoroalkyl and  
163 Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) contamination has been found adjacent to the site's leach  
164 fields. Leach field sampling thus far indicates that the maximum concentration is 50 parts per  
165 trillion (ppt); Vermont's PFAS limit is 20 ppt. Additional sampling is planned. Corrective actions,  
166 most likely long-term monitoring, will follow. No PFAS contaminations have been found in any of  
167 the Areas of Concern (AOCs) being sampled for other contaminants. Progress on remediations for  
168 previously identified petroleum contaminations were described. Soil excavation was used to  
169 remediate fuel oil leaks in AOC #5. Soil sampling determined that a larger than initially planned  
170 excavation area was needed in AOC #5; however, this remediation is now complete. In contrast, a

171 smaller than expected exaction was required to remediate AOC #7A. Soil sampling to confirm  
172 that AOC #7A remediation is complete are still being analyzed. Several minor changes to the  
173 water monitoring program permits were also described. DEC expects that it will have more  
174 issues to discuss at future Panel meetings.

175

176 • **Public Service Department (PSD) Update:**

177 PSD Special Counsel Eric Guzman outlined PSD's fiscal oversight of the VY Decommissioning  
178 project required by the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in effect as part of NorthStar's  
179 purchase of VY. Nick Capik of Four Points Group (FPG), PSD's consultants for overseeing the  
180 project, was also present to provide additional information, as needed. (Slides for this  
181 presentation are available from the Panel's website.)

182

183 PSD's financial and technical oversight role was outlined, which includes receiving updates on  
184 work completed versus work remaining and project expenditures versus funds remaining. PSD  
185 coordinates with other State Agencies and FPG to assess project status and whether  
186 decommissioning trust fund reimbursement requests are consistent with the work completed.  
187 PSD also meets with NorthStar regularly to conduct any follow-up necessary on NorthStar's self-  
188 reporting. Regular site visits by FPG are conducted to observe completed work. The most recent  
189 visits occurred in mid-March. The site visits continue to show that project progress is consistent  
190 with that described in NorthStar's status reports.

191

192 NorthStar's required project Annual Financial Disclosures were received before their March 31  
193 deadline and continue to be reviewed by PSD. The Nuclear Decommissioning Trust (NDT) is  
194 invested in US Treasury Bonds. The NDT value reflects the current worth of these bonds. If the  
195 bonds are held to maturity, as expected, their value will be sufficient to cover the currently  
196 expected cost to complete decommissioning. PSD continues to monitor NDT values. Reviews of  
197 the Annual Disclosure and NorthStar's monthly reports thus far have not raised any causes for  
198 concern for completing the VY decommissioning project on schedule and within available  
199 funding.

200

201 • **In Response to Panel Questions:** PSD representatives indicated that they would report on  
202 the likely tax revenue that the State and the Town of Vernon would receive while VY's Spent  
203 Nuclear Fuel remained onsite. It was noted that the VY site's four electrical switchyards, which  
204 are managed by VELCO, will remain following VY's decommissioning.

205

206 It was also noted that Reactor Building concrete radiological contamination is monitored by VY  
207 staff, subject to NRC review. This concrete is largely inert but does contain trace levels of tritium.  
208 Panelist Bill Irwin added that Vermont Department of Health continues to independently monitor  
209 radiological conditions immediately around the VY site. Vermont Health samples are collected  
210 from immediately offsite locations, including Vernon Elementary School (across the street from  
211 the VY Site) as well as Connecticut River water monitoring upstream and downstream of the VY  
212 Site. Results from VY's overall monitoring program are regularly reported to the NRC, which also

213 reviews the implementation of the monitoring program on a regular basis. Air monitoring within  
214 the RB is conducted continuously.

215  
216 In response to a question from Panelist Lissa Weinmann, PSD's Eric Guzman reported that any  
217 leftover funds in the VY Site Restoration Trust Fund would go to NorthStar, in accordance with the  
218 NorthStar Vermont Yankee Purchase Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

219  
220 • **In Response to Public Questions** (from Ann Darling): Public Service Commissioner June  
221 Tierney agreed that links to NRC reports on VY's radiological monitoring could be added to the  
222 Panel website. Panelist Corey Daniels confirmed that concrete from VY's demolition is shipped to  
223 WCS Andrews County, TX disposal facilities.

224  
225 • **In Early Public Comments:** Ann Darling (Citizens Awareness Network, Easthampton, MA):  
226 stated that NRC sites should consider climate change impacts at individual nuclear power plant  
227 sites. Older flood risk data is still being used to evaluate safety conditions at these sites. Perhaps  
228 States could look at newer flood risk data faster than the NRC? She also noted that the Yankee  
229 Rowe site is fully decommissioned except for the spent nuclear fuel that remains at the site. While  
230 currently regarded as safe, the fuel could experience an increased flood risk due to climate change  
231 effects.

232  
233 • **Discussion of Federal Nuclear Waste Policy (FNWP) Committee Activities:**  
234 Lissa Weinmann, Chair of the Panel's Federal Nuclear Waste Policy Committee, provided a verbal  
235 summary of the Committee's most recent meeting, held on March 4. (Further details regarding  
236 this meeting are available in Section XI.B of this report.) At this meeting, energy policy staff  
237 members from Vermont's Congressional Delegation (Senator Sanders, Senator Welch, and  
238 Congresswoman Balint) discussed several nuclear energy policy-related bills that have been  
239 introduced during the current Congressional session. A recording of this discussion is available  
240 through the Committee webpage and at:

241  
242 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6RsVn7KXWi8>

243  
244 The Committee continues to examine aspects of current and potential Federal nuclear waste  
245 policies. One possible future subject would be to consider what happens if VY's spent fuel does  
246 not leave site by the currently projected 2052 date. She also noted that she will be attending the  
247 Radwaste Summit (a nuclear power industry conference) in early June. She will report  
248 observations from the Summit back to the Panel.

249  
250 • **Summary of Meeting with Windham Delegation:**  
251 Panel Chair Chris Company verbally summarized his recent meeting with several Windham  
252 County Vermont Legislators (aka the Windham County Delegation) to discuss the Panel's  
253 recently published (2023) Annual Report. Joining Chris in the meeting were Panelist Corey  
254 Daniels and State Nuclear Engineer Tony Leshinski. Chris noted that he had originally

255 requested whether any of the Legislature’s Committees required testimony from the Panel  
256 regarding its Annual Report or ongoing VY Decommissioning activities. No such requests were  
257 received. Nonetheless, a meeting / webcast session was arranged with six members of the  
258 Windham County Delegation to see if they needed additional details regarding the 2023 Annual  
259 Report. No one from the Delegation had specific concerns or questions on the Annual Report.  
260 The Delegation did express appreciation for the Panel’s efforts in following VY  
261 Decommissioning activities.

262  
263 Chris recommended that the Panel approach the Legislature very early in the start of its next  
264 session (i.e., in early 2025) with a follow-up request to provide testimony on Panel activities.  
265 The Legislature is more often open to a broader scope of testimony at the beginning of its  
266 biennium.

- 267 • **General Public Comments:** None were received during the Public Comment Period.

269  
270 During meeting wrap-up, the Panel requested that NorthStar and the usual State Agency  
271 presenters have their meeting presentations available five days in advance of future Panel  
272 meetings to allow pre-meeting reviews of the presented materials.

#### 273 274 275 **September 23, 2024**

276 Much like the Panel’s May 13 meeting, the September 23 meeting consisted of reports from  
277 NorthStar and several State Agencies on recent VY decommissioning activities.

- 278  
279 • **NorthStar Update on VY Site Decommissioning Activities:**

280 NorthStar Panelist Corey Daniels summarized decommissioning activities completed since May  
281 2024. (Slides for this presentation are available from the Panel’s website.) NorthStar continues  
282 VY decommissioning work without an OSHA Recordable Lost Time Accident since starting active  
283 decommissioning in January 2019. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has issued no cited  
284 violations at VY during this time. The project remains on schedule to complete onsite demolition  
285 in 2026. The Reactor Building (RB) is the only power plant building still standing onsite. Progress  
286 on removing the remaining RB components was described. This includes removing the Reactor  
287 Vessel Refueling Bellows, the Reactor Recirculating Water System Pumps and associated piping,  
288 and the Radwaste Clean-Up System Heat Exchangers. Piping and components removal continues  
289 in the RB Drywell.

290  
291 Work within the RB is transitioning to final decontamination of emptied RB spaces in preparation  
292 for free releasing the building for its upcoming demolition. As part of decontamination effort, the  
293 Spent Fuel Pool (SFP) walls and floor have been sandblasted. Preparations for conducting  
294 sandblasting / decontamination in the Dryer-Separator Pit (DSP) are underway. Final cleaning in  
295 the Torus area and on various RB levels were shown.

296



297 Construction of an earthen ramp on the south side of the RB continues. The ramp will allow  
298 heavy equipment to reach the upper levels of the RB exterior and facilitate RB structural  
299 demolition.

300  
301 Backfilling in AOCs #5 and #7 have completed. To date, no new AOCs have been identified  
302 because of VY demolition activities. Excavations to remove piping at the Cooling Towers Spray  
303 Pond were conducted; the affected areas have been backfilled. Cofferdam construction to  
304 support preliminary demolition at the River Discharge Structure has begun.

305  
306 Several new onsite groundwater monitoring wells have been installed based on ANR feedback.  
307 Development of the site's post-decommissioning water monitoring program continues with  
308 ANR input.

309  
310 Radioactive waste shipment packaging was discussed. NorthStar is averaging 4 to 5 radioactive  
311 waste shipments per week. As of September 16, 151 radioactive waste shipments have occurred  
312 this year; 920 shipments have occurred since decommissioning started in January 2019.

313  
314 • **Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Update:**  
315 Graham Bradley, Hazardous Sites Manager in DEC's Waste Management and Prevention Division  
316 outlined the ANR / DEC's recent interactions with VY. (Slides for this presentation are available  
317 from the Panel's website.) Regular status calls, draft permit, and corrective action plan reviews  
318 continue. Sampling programs for non-radiological contaminants continue; no unexpected site  
319 contaminations have been identified thus far. ANR/DEC continues to work closely with  
320 NorthStar's remediation contractor, Haley & Aldrich, and DEC's consultant, Atlas, on plans for  
321 addressing potential contaminant issues at VY's previously identified Areas of Concern (AOCs).  
322 DEC continues to monitor onsite PFAS contaminations. PFAS levels of up to 50 parts per trillion  
323 have been observed, particularly in onsite leach fields, which exceed DEC's 20 parts per trillion  
324 limit. The observed PFAS levels are similar to those seen at other industrial sites within Vermont.  
325 Long-term monitoring and restrictions on any new onsite drinking water wells will likely be  
326 needed to address.

327  
328 Remediation (mostly soil removal) to known fuel oil leaks onsite were discussed. Remediation at  
329 AOCs #5 and #7 are complete. Contaminant surveys at AOC #6 (Radwaste Building Compactor  
330 Room) and AOC #11 (South Warehouse Area) have been conducted following removal of their  
331 concrete slabs. No significant contaminants have been found.

332  
333 • **Public Service Department (PSD) Update:**  
334 PSD Special Counsel Caroline Daniels outlined PSD's fiscal oversight of the VY Decommissioning  
335 project required by the MOU in effect as part of NorthStar's purchase of VY. Nick Capik of Four  
336 Points Group (FPG), PSD's consultants for overseeing the project, was also present to provide  
337 additional information, as needed. (Slides for this presentation are available from the Panel's  
338 website.) PSD's oversight includes receiving updates on work completed versus work remaining  
339 and project expenditures versus funds remaining. PSD coordinates with other State Agencies and

340 FPG to assess project status and whether Nuclear Decommissioning Trust (NDT) reimbursement  
341 requests are consistent with the work completed. PSD also meets with NorthStar regularly to  
342 conduct any follow-up necessary on NorthStar's self-reporting. Regular site visits by FPG are  
343 conducted to observe completed work. The most recent visit occurred in early July. These visits  
344 continue to show observed project progress that is consistent with that described in NorthStar's  
345 status reports.

346  
347 Updates on the Decommissioning and Site Restoration Trust Funds were provided. As of  
348 August 31, the projected cost to complete Decommissioning and License Termination is \$81.1  
349 million, but the current value of the NDT is \$76.3 Million. The NDT is invested in US Treasury  
350 Bonds. The NDT value reflects the current worth of these bonds. If the bonds are held to  
351 maturity, as expected, their value is expected to increase to \$77.1 million. However, this does not  
352 include NDT interest earnings. Considering the additional \$55 million available via the Financial  
353 Assurance Escrow and the \$140 million Support Agreement established in the NorthStar VY  
354 Purchase MOU, PSD assessments continue to show that the NDT and other available funding will  
355 be sufficient to cover the current costs of VY decommissioning. PSD continues to monitor VY  
356 funding values. Based on NorthStar's most recent monthly reports, NorthStar continues to remain  
357 on track to complete the project on schedule and within available funding.

358  
359 • **During Panel Questions on NorthStar and State Agencies Reports:** Panelist David  
360 Eastman asked several questions regarding PFAS and hazmat monitoring at VY. Graham Bradley  
361 emphasized that these monitoring programs were still evolving for long-term monitoring.  
362 Additional monitoring wells will be added and additional sampling will be done as needs are  
363 identified. It was noted that Vermont's PFAS contamination limits are quite low. Essentially, if  
364 PFAS is detectable, it must be remediated.

365  
366 Panel Vice-Chair Lissa Weinmann asked (through chat messages) how exposures are monitored  
367 onsite. Corey Daniels briefly described the personnel monitoring required for anyone within  
368 demolition zones onsite. He also noted that air sampling is conducted on a continuous basis  
369 within the RB. Air filters within the RB are regularly changed. One of the ways that exposures are  
370 controlled is by using the proper staffing for specific jobs. For example, in the recent sandblasting  
371 work, NorthStar brought in its own specialists for the work, all of whom wore the proper Personal  
372 Protective Equipment (PPE) for the job and are good at what they do. NorthStar does not  
373 subcontract critical project work.

374  
375 • **Public Questions on NorthStar and State Agencies Reports:**  
376 Schuyler Gould (Citizens Awareness Network, Brattleboro, VT) asked for a clarification on what  
377 grout is, since it gets mentioned a lot in radioactive waste packaging discussions. Corey Daniels  
378 replied that grout is a low-density concrete that is added to many of VY's radwaste shipments that  
379 helps assure that package contents do not shift during transportation.

380  
381 In response to an additional public question, Panelist Bill Irwin briefly described Vermont  
382 Department of Health's radiological monitoring program at VY. He emphasized that Health does

383 not have an onsite monitoring program. However, the area surrounding the VY site is monitored  
384 through several means. Several monitoring points are set along VY's fence line. These points hold  
385 TLDs (Thermo-Luminescent Detectors) that are routinely processed to assess radiological dose at  
386 the monitoring locations. Additionally, there are water and air sampling stations surrounding the  
387 VY site. One of the air sampling stations is located at Vernon Elementary School, which is across  
388 the street from VY's Main Entrance.

389

390 • **Early General Public Comments:**

391 Ann Darling (Citizens Awareness Network, , Easthampton, MA) expressed thanks to State Nuclear  
392 Engineer Tony Leshinskie for his assistance in locating several of VY's annual radioactive waste  
393 volume reports.

394

395 With prior consent from Panel Chair Chris Campany, Jasper Gilardi introduced himself as a  
396 representative of the Good Energy Collective. The Collective is one of thirteen DOE funding  
397 awardees in the Spent Nuclear Fuel Repository Consent-Based Spent Siting Development  
398 program. The Collective has chosen the VY area as one of several communities it will survey to  
399 identify the range of public perceptions regarding nuclear power plant operations and public  
400 relations, plant decommissioning, and the likelihood of Spent Nuclear Fuel remaining in the  
401 community for the next several decades. The Collective hopes to interview approximately 40  
402 to 50 area residents for this survey. Volunteers are invited to attend survey workshop sessions  
403 which will be held on October 20, 21, and 22 at the Governor Hunt House in Vernon.

404

405 Dr. Thomas Webler (Turners Falls, MA) introduced himself as a representative of the Social &  
406 Environmental Research Institute, another DOE Consent-Based Siting Development program  
407 awardee, who will be gathering information from the VY area. His information-gathering effort is  
408 separate from Good Energy Collective's workshops. He will also be working with communities  
409 near the Connecticut Yankee, Maine Yankee, and Yankee Rowe Spent Fuel Storage Facilities as  
410 part of his efforts. He will have more information available on these efforts in the near future.

411

412 • **Discussion of Federal Nuclear Waste Policy (FNWP) Committee Activities:**

413 Due to laryngitis, Lissa Weinmann, Chair of the Panel's Federal Nuclear Waste Policy Committee,  
414 was unable to provide a report on the Committee's recent activities. State Nuclear Engineer Tony  
415 Leshinskie briefly described the Committee's most recent meeting, held on June 17. At this  
416 meeting, the Committee received a presentation from several DOE officials regarding the  
417 development of the facility design for Federal Spent Nuclear Fuel Storage facilities. The  
418 presentation and its subsequent Q&A session were recorded for future reference. The recording  
419 is available from the Committee's webpage (which is part of the Panel's website), if anyone is  
420 interested in learning more about the presentation. (Further details regarding this meeting are  
421 also available in Section XI.B of this report.)

422

423 Part of the DOE presentation discussed a technology currently under development evaluating  
424 degradation in spent fuel storage canister integrity after multiple years of use. This part of the

425 presentation resulted in a rather engaging discussion. A copy of DOE's presentation is also  
426 available via the Committee webpage.

427  
428 The Committee is currently planning its next meeting for September 9. Details regarding this  
429 meeting will be announced as they become available. (Note: this meeting was later postponed to  
430 October 21.) Through meeting chat messaging, Lissa Weinmann added that she was supposed to  
431 provide a verbal report this evening regarding her attendance at the National Radwaste Summit  
432 held in Louisville in early June. Because of her laryngitis, she needs to postpone making this  
433 summary until the Panel's December meeting.

434  
435 • **Advanced Availability of NDCAP Presentations:**  
436 The Panel agreed that it would continue to require its regular reporting agencies (NorthStar and  
437 the several State Agencies that routinely provide Panel presentations) to have Panel presentations  
438 publicly available five days prior to Full Panel meetings.

439  
440 • **General Public Comments:** None were received during the Public Comment Period.

441  
442 During meeting wrap-up, Chris Campany noted the small in-person attendance at tonight's  
443 meeting. He suggested that the December 9 meeting be conducted solely as a webcast, since this  
444 is now permissible for Advisory Panels like VT-NDCAP. Several Panelists stated a preference for  
445 having an in-room option. Chris agreed to check on using the Windham Regional Commission  
446 Conference Room as the December 9 meeting space, which could still accommodate tonight's  
447 small in-person attendees.

448  
449 The December 9 meeting will discuss the Panel's 2024 Annual Report. State Nuclear Engineer  
450 Tony Leshinski committed to having a draft of the report available for Panelist review by the  
451 week of November 18. Tony agreed to send out reminders to the Panelists about the December 9  
452 meeting once the report draft is available for Panelist review.

453  
454  
455 **December 9, 2024**

456 In addition to receiving reports from NorthStar, DEC and PSD on recent VY decommissioning  
457 activities, the Panel received a verbal report from Vice-Chair Lissa Weinmann regarding the  
458 national Radwaste Summit meeting she attended in early June. The Panel's Annual Report was  
459 also finalized. Panel Officer Elections for the 2025 Calendar Year were conducted. With 10  
460 Panelists in attendance at the start of the meeting, a quorum (9 Panelists required) was present.  
461 After 2 additional Panelists subsequently joined the meeting; attendance in excess of quorum  
462 requirements was met throughout the meeting. Due to deteriorating weather conditions at the  
463 meeting's physical space, review and approval of the Panel's Annual Report and the Election of  
464 Panel Officers were conducted first, since these were items that required a vote (in case the  
465 meeting was adjourned early).

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- **Draft Annual Report for 2024:**

The current draft of the Panel’s 2024 Annual Report to the Legislature, authored by State Nuclear Engineer Tony Leshinskie, was reviewed. Actions for finalizing the report by its January 15, 2025 due date were determined. During Panel discussion of the report, Panelist Dave Eastman expressed concern that access to report content may deteriorate over time because of its reliance on electronic document links. What assurances are there that the various links included in the document remain active long-term? Tony Leshinskie outlined the steps that the Public Service Department takes to check electronic links on the Department’s (including the Panel’s) website remain valid. These include the weblinks that appear in the Annual Report.

Following Panel discussion, the report was unanimously approved, subject to implementing the authorized changes.

Panel Chair Chris Campany indicated that he hoped to arrange a meeting with the Legislature’s Windham County Delegation to discuss the Panel’s 2024 activities in more detail. This meeting date will be announced to Panelists once it is known.

- **Election of New Panel Officers:**

Before opening nominations for Panel Chair, Chris Campany announced that he would not be seeking reelection as Panel Chair. When the floor was opened for Chair nominations, none were made. The Panel then discussed how it could function without a Chair; would the Panel Vice-Chair need to assume the Chair’s duties? Public Service Commissioner June Tierney noted that the Legislation establishing the Panel allows for the Public Service Commissioner to act as Chair. However, she noted that she was retiring from State service at the end of December. The interim Commissioner could act as Panel Chair until a new Public Service Commissioner is named.

Following nominations for Vice-Chair, Lissa Weinmann was subsequently re-elected Panel Vice-Chair for a 1-year term. Afterwards, Chris Campany added that sometimes “things have to germinate.” It was okay to have not elected a Panel Chair. Commissioner Tierney and outgoing Panel Chair Campany were thanked by several Panelists for their efforts on behalf of the Panel.

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

NorthStar Panelist Corey Daniels summarized decommissioning activities completed since September 2024. (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. The Reactor Building (RB) remains as the only power plant building still standing onsite. Progress on removing the last remaining RB components was described. Structural steel removal continues in and around the RB Drywell but is nearing completion.

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Work within the RB continues to transition to final decontamination of emptied RB spaces in preparation for free releasing the building for its upcoming demolition. As part of decontamination effort, the Spent Fuel Pool (SFP) walls and floor have been sandblasted. Preparations for conducting sandblasting / decontamination in the Dryer-Separator Pit (DSP) are underway. Demolition of the RB structure is expected to start in early 2025.

Construction of an earthen ramp on the south side of the RB continues. The ramp will allow heavy equipment to reach the upper levels of the RB exterior and facilitate RB structural demolition. Cofferdam construction to support preliminary demolition at the River Discharge Structure continues. Additionally, the concrete slab from the site's former Construction Office Building has been removed and backfilled.

NorthStar's average number of radioactive waste shipments has slowed to 1 per week but will increase again in early 2025. As of November 13, 161 radioactive waste shipments have occurred this year; 936 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 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. Groundwater sampling for PFAS is underway in the former Construction Office Building leach field.

Planning for remediation (mostly soil removal) along the site rail spur is in progress. Additional shallow soil removal and disposal for AOC #3 (South Warehouse) remediation is also being planned. 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 23 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 in early

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

556  
557 Updates on the Decommissioning and Site Restoration Trust Funds were provided. As of  
558 October 31, the projected cost to complete Decommissioning and License Termination is \$73.9  
559 million, but the current value of the Nuclear Decommissioning Trust (NDT) is \$68.4 Million; the  
560 Site Restoration Trust (SRT) value is \$46.4 Million. The NDT and SRT are invested in US  
561 Treasury Bonds. The NDT and SRT values reflect the current worth of these bonds. If the bonds  
562 are held to maturity, as expected, their value will be sufficient to cover the current cost of  
563 decommissioning. PSD will continue to monitor the fund values. Overall, NorthStar remains on  
564 track to complete the project on schedule with the currently available funding.

565  
566 **In Response to Panel Questions:** Corey Daniels provided the following additional details on  
567 current VY Decommissioning work:

- 568 • Excluding VY security staff, between 60 to 100 people work onsite; the exact number of  
569 workers varies on a weekly basis and is dependent upon the work tasks scheduled for  
570 the week.
- 571 • Approximately 1 year of work remains to complete Reactor Building demolition; an  
572 additional year will be needed to clear out debris from this demolition.
- 573 • VY will require on site staff for monitoring spent fuel storage through (at least) 2052.
- 574 • The remaining radioactive waste from this demolition will ship to the Texas Compact  
575 Commission Low Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Facilities in Andrews County, TX.  
576 Most of the shipments will be conducted by rail; however, some of the more  
577 contaminated components will be trucked to the Texas Compact Facilities using  
578 appropriate radwaste cannisters (e.g. model 14-170 containers, etc.). All shipments  
579 qualify as low-level radioactive waste; none of the remaining waste is Greater-Than-  
580 Class-C waste.
- 581 • The remaining activity in the radwaste is from metal isotopes such as nickel and cobalt;  
582 very little activity due to tritium remains.
- 583 • Silica particulates resulting from concrete demolition on site is monitored at the VY site  
584 fence line. Additional monitoring is conducted at Vernon Elementary School (which is  
585 across the street from the VY site). Water sprays are used during VY demolition  
586 activities to mitigate airborne dust and silica.

587  
588 Panelist Bill Irwin suggested that NorthStar provide a Panel Presentation on its environmental  
589 monitoring program during one of the 2025 calendar year meetings. Learning more about the  
590 long-term radioactive and hazmat monitoring programs for the VY Site would also be useful.

591  
592 In response to several Panelist questions regarding the fiscal health of the VY Decommissioning  
593 project, PSD's Caroline Daniels indicated that while much of the financial monitoring of the  
594 decommissioning project relies on information reported by VY's ownership (NorthStar), the  
595 Department and its consultants (FPG) verify the reporting via site visits and independent

596 evaluations as much as possible. FPG’s Nick Capik added that he regularly monitors NorthStar’s  
597 actual expenditures against the fixed prices set for individual tasks in the 900+ item VY  
598 Decommissioning budget. NorthStar’s Corey Daniels added that much of the financial success of  
599 VY’s decommissioning to date can be attributed to no “surprises” have been found requiring  
600 significant unplanned site radiological or hazmat clean-ups. Panelist Chris Campany noted that  
601 the cleanliness of the VY site could be attributed to the late Steve Skibniowsky’s efforts in  
602 monitoring and controlling onsite contaminants during VY’s operational lifetime. (Steve was also  
603 one of the first appointees to VT-NDCAP and briefly served as Panel Chair in 2023 immediately  
604 prior to his passing.)  
605

606 • **During Public Questions & Comments on the NorthStar and State Agencies Reports:**

607 Ann Darling (Citizens Awareness Network, Easthampton, MA) expressed her satisfaction with  
608 NorthStar’s efforts in VY’s decommissioning thus far. Additionally, she suggested that the Panel  
609 should pursue receiving a presentation from Waste Control Specialists (WCS) to learn more on  
610 how VY’s radwaste is processed for disposal at the Texas Compact Facilities. State Nuclear  
611 Engineer Tony Leshinskie committed to arranging for such a presentation to occur, noting that it  
612 had been several years since the Panel had received a presentation regarding the Texas Compact  
613 Facilities.  
614

615 • **During Discussion of FNWP Committee Activities:**

616 Lissa Weinmann, Chair of the Panel’s Federal Nuclear Waste Policy Committee, discussed her  
617 observations from attending the National Radwaste Summit held in Louisville in early June. (Due  
618 to laryngitis, she was unable to make this presentation at the September 23 meeting as originally  
619 planned.)  
620

621 Presentations at the Summit discussed US radioactive waste inventories from both Department of  
622 Defense and commercial activities, which helped to bring the scope of the spent nuclear issues  
623 into perspective. Were Yucca Mountain to open today, it would easily be filled to capacity by the  
624 current US nuclear fuel inventory; the current US inventory is considerably larger than Yucca  
625 Mountain’s proposed capacity. The current US inventory comprises roughly one quarter of the  
626 world’s nuclear waste. (State Nuclear Engineer Tony Leshinskie later noted that the spent fuel  
627 stored at VY accounts for roughly 0.5% of the US inventory.) While several countries are working  
628 on national repositories, Finland is the only country that is close to opening a consolidated deep  
629 geological repository.  
630

631 Changes in Federal law are necessary if the US is to effectively address its spent fuel inventory.  
632 Issuing Panel Advisory Opinions on spent-fuel policy topics would help to move this effort along.  
633

634 A written summary of Lissa Weinmann’s observations from the June 2024 National Radwaste  
635 Summit is available at:

636  
637 <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/document/report-june-2024-radwaste-summit>.



638 • **In Discussing the Panel Meeting Schedule for 2025:**  
639 The Panel voted (11-0, with Commissioner Tierney abstaining) to approve the following meeting  
640 dates for 2025:

- 641
- 642 • May 12
  - 643 • September 22
  - 644 • December 8
- 645

646 The Panel also expects to hold a Special Meeting in early 2025 to receive a US DOE presentation on  
647 the Department's recently published VY Site-Specific Spent Nuclear Fuel De-Inventory Report.  
648 Further details regarding the Panel's discussion while setting its 2025 meeting dates are available  
649 in Section XII of this report.

650

#### 651 **IV. Major Milestones and Activities at the Vermont Yankee Site During 2024**

652

- 653 • 1/2 Site Decommissioning Activities resume following Holiday Break.
- 654 • 1/2 Reactor Building (RB) Components & pipe removal resumes (Torus area, Dry Well,  
655 Dry Well Anteroom, & intervening RB 252-foot level spaces); Turbine Building (TB)  
656 concrete pad (south end of TB) removal begins; RB exterior ramp (to facilitate RB  
657 demolition) construction using crushed TB concrete resumes; Downsizing of TB  
658 structural steel for offsite shipment resumes; Advanced Off-Gas (AOG) Building  
659 Foundation demolition and components removal resume; Radioactive waste shipments  
660 via railcars resume; Backfilling of the Off-Gas Systems trenches (near former Effluent  
661 Stack site) begins.
- 662 • 1/2 Decontamination of several RB 318-foot level spaces resumes (includes Reactor Water  
663 Clean-Up System (RWCU) Hold Pumps Room & Spent Fuel Pool (SFP) Skimmer Pump  
664 Room).
- 665 • 1/8 Structural Steel removal in RB Torus area, Dry Well, & Dry Well Anteroom begins.
- 666 • 1/12 Dry Well Anteroom components & piping removals completed; Decontamination of the  
667 (RWCU) Hold Pumps Room & SFP Skimmer Pump Room completed, AOG Building  
668 basement components removal completed
- 669 • 1/15 RWCU Phase Separator Room components removal begins; RWCU Main Pump Room  
670 decontamination begins; Debris removal from TB Basement footprint begins; AOG  
671 Building basement hazmat surveys begin.
- 672 • 1/15 AOG Building basement hazmat surveys completed; survey evaluations begin.
- 673 • 1/17 Downsizing of original VY Turbine Rotor begins.
- 674 • 1/22 Decontamination in several RB 280-foot level spaces begins.
- 675 • 1/26 Last scheduled AOG Building Basement clean-out activities completed.
- 676 • 1/29 RWCU Phase Separator Tanks removal begins; Asbestos abatement in AOG Building  
677 Pipe Vault begins.
- 678 • 1/31 AOG Building Pipe Vault asbestos abatement completed.
- 679 • 2/5 Segmentation of RWCU Phase Separator Tanks begins.

- 680 • 2/12 Cooling Tower Spray Pond piping removal begins.
- 681 • 2/19 Excavation for Effluent Stack foundation removal begins.
- 682 • 2/20 NRC Second Half 2023 Inspection Report published – no reported issues, findings,  
683 or violations identified.
- 684 • 2/22 Cooling Tower Spray Pond piping removal completed.
- 685 • 2/26 Decontamination in most RB 280-foot level spaces completed; RB Neutron Detector  
686 Calibration Room decontamination begins.
- 687 • 2/26 First Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) onsite inspection of the year occurs  
688 (2/26 through 2/29).
- 689 • 2/27 NorthStar withdraws VY Reactor License Termination Plan (LTP) from NRC review  
690 for rework.
- 691 • 2/29 Segmentation and removal of RWCU Phase Separator Tanks completed; RWCU Phase  
692 Separator Room decontamination begins; RB Neutron Detector Calibration Room  
693 decontamination completed.
- 694 • 3/14 TB concrete pad removal (from building's sections without a basement) completed.
- 695 • 3/16 Backfilling of the Off-Gas Systems trenches completed; soil grading & stabilization at  
696 trench sites begins.
- 697 • 3/20 Soil remediation in hazmat Area of Concern (AOC) #5 (South Warehouse Site) begins
- 698 • 3/27 NorthStar files required Annual VY Decommissioning Trust Fund & Spent Fuel  
699 Management Fund reports.
- 700 • 3/28 VY Electric Fire Pump permanently removed from service; RB Torus area components  
701 & pipe removals completed; RWCU Phase Separator Room decontamination  
702 completed; TB structural steel downsizing & offsite disposal completed.
- 703 • 4/1 Soil remediation in hazmat AOC #7 (Fuel Oil Storage Tank) begins.
- 704 • 4/8 RB Torus space final decontamination begins.
- 705 • 4/15 Second NRC onsite inspection of the year occurs (4/15 through 4/18); Transition in  
706 NRC Inspector Staff announced due to retirement of VY primary NRC inspector on  
707 6/30.
- 708 • 4/18 Soil grading & stabilization at Off-Gas Systems trenches site completed; Backfilling,  
709 soil grading, & stabilization at Spray Pond discharge piping trench begins.
- 710 • 4/22 RWCU Heat Exchangers segmentation begins (last heat exchangers in RB).
- 711 • 4/29 Construction of several onsite PFAS monitoring wells begins .
- 712 • 5/6 Annual site roadway assessment completed (required by Town of Vernon).
- 713 • 5/13 Internal RB wall cutting to facilitate RWCU components removals begins.
- 714 • 5/16 First samples from new onsite PFAS monitoring wells taken.
- 715 • 5/20 Third NRC onsite inspection of the year occurs (5/20 through 5/23); Last onsite  
716 inspection conducted by Steve Hammann, primary NRC Inspector for VY since mid-  
717 2015.
- 718 • 5/21 VY site road maintenance (pothole repairs) completed.
- 719 • 6/3 RB embedded piping epoxy fillings begin (contamination spread preventative once  
720 RB demolition begins).
- 721 • 6/10 Compactor Building concrete slab removal begins; backfilling of hazmat AOC #5 begins.

- 722 • 6/14 Downsizing of original VY Turbine Rotor completed (several scraps remain).
- 723 • 6/24 RB Steam Tunnel asbestos abatement begins; sandblasting (decontamination) of  
724 SFP steel liner begins.
- 725 • 6/25 New NRC Project Managers for VY Decommissioning announced.
- 726 • 6/27 Backfilling of hazmat AOC #5 completed.
- 727 • 6/27 VY Staff Emergency Drills satisfactorily completed (6/26 & 6/27).
- 728 • 7/1 NRC First Half 2024 Inspection Report Issued – no reported issues, findings, or  
729 violations identified.
- 730 • 7/8 Backfilling of hazmat AOC #7 begins; Cofferdam construction at River Discharge  
731 Structure begins.
- 732 • 7/11 Backfilling of hazmat AOC #7 completed.
- 733 • 7/12 RB Drywell asbestos abatement begins; Steam Tunnel asbestos abatement completed.
- 734 • 7/15 Refueling Bellows removal from the RB Drywell begins.
- 735 • 7/29 Recirculating Water System Pump removals begin.
- 736 • 8/5 Cooling Tower Spray Pond demolition begins.
- 737 • 8/8 Refueling Bellows & Recirculating Water System Pump removals completed
- 738 • 8/12 RB Drywell Sumps clean-out underway.
- 739 • 8/15 SFP steel liner sandblasting completed; Cooling Tower Spray Pond demolition  
740 completed.
- 741 • 8/19 Fourth NRC onsite inspection of the year occurs (8/19 through 8/22); first inspection  
742 with new NRC site inspector.
- 743 • 8/22 Last RWCU Heat Exchanger removed from VY Site; Drywell Sumps clean-out complete.
- 744 • 8/30 Cooling Tower Spray Pond pipe removals completed.
- 745 • 9/4 Sandblasting (decontamination) of Dryer / Separator Pit (DSP) begins.
- 746 • 9/9 High Pressure Coolant Injection (HPCI) Room clean-out & backfill begins.
- 747 • 9/18 Additional onsite PFAS monitoring wells constructed; Annual testing of VY Security  
748 Diesel Generator successfully completed.
- 749 • 9/23 Blowdown System structural steel removal begins.
- 750 • 9/25 HPCI Room clean-out & backfill completed.
- 751 • 9/26 First samples from newest onsite PFAS monitoring wells collected.
- 752 • 9/30 General decontamination of RB spaces begins.
- 753 • 10/3 Cofferdam construction at River Discharge Structure completed; drain down for  
754 for Liquid Effluents Piping removal begins.
- 755 • 10/7 Liquid Effluents Piping removal at River Discharge Structure begins.
- 756 • 10/11 Dryer / Separator Pit (DSP) sandblasting completed.
- 757 • 10/21 Final SFP and DSP clean-outs begin; Decontamination & final clean-out of Drywell  
758 lower levels completed.
- 759 • 10/21 VY site rail spur maintenance completed (10/21 through 10/24); Construction Office  
760 Building concrete pad demolition underway.
- 761 • 10/24 Liquid Effluents Piping removal at River Discharge Structure completed.
- 762 • 10/28 Electrical hardware clean-out at River Discharge Structure begins.

- 763 • 10/28 Backfilling of Effluent Stack base begins.
- 764 • 10/31 River Discharge Structure hardware clean-out completed.
- 765 • 11/4 RWCU Building basement clean-out begins.
- 766 • 11/7 All planned RB embedded piping removals completed.
- 767 • 11/18 Fifth NRC onsite inspection of the year occurs (11/18 through 11/21).
- 768 • 12/2 Decontamination of Reactor Core Isolation Cooling (RCIC) System Corner Room  
769 Begins.
- 770 • 12/9 RCIC System Corner Room decontamination completed.
- 771 • 12/20 Onsite demolition and decommissioning activities suspended for the remainder of  
772 2024.
- 773 • 12/29 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VY disconnecting from the Electrical Grid for the last time.  
774

775  
776 **V. Nuclear Decommissioning Trust (NDT) and Site Restoration Trust (SRT) Fund Updates**  
777 *(Based on latest available data for 2024).*

778	NDT	SRT
780	\$112.8 M Balance on December 31, 2023	\$49.4 M Balance on December 31, 2023
781	\$ 98.7 M Balance on March 31, 2024	\$47.9 M Balance on March 31, 2024
782	\$ 84.2 M Balance on June 30, 2024	\$47.3 M Balance on June 30, 2024
783	\$ 72.4 M Balance on September 30, 2024	\$46.6 M Balance on September 30, 2024
784	\$ 68.4 M Balance on October 31, 2024	\$46.4 M Balance on October 31, 2024
785	\$ 61.6 M Balance on December 31, 2024	\$46.5 M Balance on December 31, 2024

786  
787 Monthly balances for the NDT and SRT are available at:  
788 [https://publicservice.vermont.gov/public-advocacy/vermont-yankee-decommissioning/trust-](https://publicservice.vermont.gov/public-advocacy/vermont-yankee-decommissioning/trust-balances)  
789 [balances](https://publicservice.vermont.gov/public-advocacy/vermont-yankee-decommissioning/trust-balances)

790  
791 Summaries of monthly expenditures for the Vermont Yankee Decommissioning Project are  
792 available: [https://publicservice.vermont.gov/public-advocacy/vermont-yankee-](https://publicservice.vermont.gov/public-advocacy/vermont-yankee-decommissioning/public-reports)  
793 [decommissioning/public-reports](https://publicservice.vermont.gov/public-advocacy/vermont-yankee-decommissioning/public-reports)

794  
795 The NDT and SRT are invested in US Treasury Bonds. The NDT and SRT values provided here  
796 reflect the worth of these bonds on the listed dates. If the bonds are held to maturity, as expected,  
797 their value will be greater than the values reported here. Several NDT and SRT values at bond  
798 maturity were reported to the Panel at its December 9 meeting. These values are available in the  
799 following presentation:

800  
801 [https://publicservice.vermont.gov/document/vt-public-service-department-december-2024-](https://publicservice.vermont.gov/document/vt-public-service-department-december-2024-decommissioning-update)  
802 [decommissioning-update](https://publicservice.vermont.gov/document/vt-public-service-department-december-2024-decommissioning-update)

803  
804 As of December 31, 2024, the NDT value would be \$62.1 Million and the SRT value would be  
805 \$47.1 Million if both funds were held to maturity.

806  
807  
808 **VI. Spent Nuclear Fuel Status at Vermont Yankee**

809 The last of VY's spent fuel inventory was transferred to dry cask storage on August 1, 2018. The  
810 VY Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) consists of a total of 3,880 spent fuel  
811 assemblies (used over the course of VY's 42 years of power generation) contained in 58 dry  
812 casks. No changes in the configuration of VY's dry casks have occurred since the placement of  
813 the last spent fuel dry case in 2018. However, on October 19, 2022, an additional (59<sup>th</sup>) dry cask  
814 containing VY's Greater-Than-Class C (GTCC) low-level radioactive waste was added to the ISFSI.  
815 (This GTCC waste consists of several highly contaminated VY Reactor Vessel internal  
816 components which had been stored temporarily in VY's Spent Fuel Pool following their removal  
817 from the RV.) With this move, all VY GTCC waste resides at the VY ISFSI. VY's spent fuel will

818 remain at the VY ISFSI until the US Department of Energy fulfills its obligation to provide a  
819 national spent nuclear fuel repository. VY's GTCC waste will remain at the VY ISFSI until a US  
820 radioactive waste disposal facility is licensed to accept GTCC waste.

821  
822 A total of 6 vacant cask spaces remain on VY's ISFSI pads. Four of these are required should the  
823 arrangement of the dry casks on the two ISFSI pads need to be changed for any reason. The  
824 remaining two spaces were designated for storing additional VY GTCC Low Level Radioactive  
825 Waste. Early (circa 2014) GTCC volume estimates suggested that VY could require as many as  
826 three GTCC waste casks. More refined estimates (circa 2018 and later) determined that only one  
827 GTCC waste cask would be necessary.

828  
829

## 830 **VII. Significant Vermont Yankee Site Changes**

831 Monitoring of the Vermont Yankee Spent Nuclear Fuel is controlled from the site's Central Alarm  
832 Station (CAS) Building, which became operational on August 23, 2018. No significant changes to  
833 Vermont Yankee's spent fuel monitoring programs occurred during 2024. All Vermont Yankee  
834 site changes occurring in 2024 resulted from the continuation of decommissioning activities,  
835 which commenced on January 11, 2019.

836

837 Very few onsite structures remain standing at the VY site in 2024. These include:

- 838 • The Reactor Building
- 839 • The River Intake & Discharge Structures
- 840 • The Plant Support Building (PSB)
- 841 • Several security-related buildings

842

843 RB demolition efforts throughout 2024 continued to remove the remaining abandoned reactor  
844 systems components, piping, conduit, and non-loadbearing walls within its interior. (Reactor  
845 Vessel removal was completed in October 2022.) Where feasible, all RB interior embedded  
846 piping has been removed (this effort was completed in early November). Decontamination of  
847 the RB's remaining interior surfaces continued throughout the year. Demolition of the RB itself  
848 is expected to begin in early 2025.

849

850 Removal of all remaining hardware at the River Intake & Discharge Structures occurred in 2024.  
851 Demolition of the structures themselves is expected in 2025. Additionally, the Cooling Tower  
852 Spray Pond and its remaining systems piping was demolished in 2024. Throughout 2024,  
853 concrete pads from previously demolished site buildings have been removed and crushed to  
854 gravel to support construction of a construction vehicle ramp on the south side of the RB. This  
855 ramp will facilitate RB demolition in 2025.

856

857 Personnel access into the Reactor Building continues through a doorway cut into the northeast  
858 corner of the Reactor Building in late 2023. Radiation Protection Checkpoint functions are

859 performed in Gatehouse #2 (as was implemented in 2022) and in a Sea-Land container adjacent  
860 to the current RB doorway.

861  
862 Other than pothole repair, no significant onsite road repairs occurred this year. Onsite rail spur  
863 maintenance occurred on an as-needed basis but did not impact radioactive waste and debris  
864 shipments to offsite facilities.

865  
866

## 867 **VIII. Vermont Yankee Water Management Program**

868 While rainfall totals through August 2024 at VY were similar to those for the same period in 2023,  
869 minimal rainfall has occurred since mid-August 2024. The VY site was under drought conditions  
870 for most of October and November. As a result, the groundwater volume collected from the Reactor  
871 Building and the Turbine Building footprint this year is somewhat lower than the total volume  
872 reported in 2023. .

- 873 • Roughly 892,000 gallons of in-leakage water shipped in 2024 (down from the 1,149,000  
874 gallons shipped in 2023)
  - 875 ○ Approximately half of VT Yankee water shipments, 434,800 gallons in total, were  
876 sent to Waste Control Specialists' (WCS) NRC-licensed disposal site in Andrews  
877 County, Texas during 2024.
  - 878 ○ The remaining 456,700 gallons of in-leakage water was shipped to US Ecology's  
879 hazardous waste disposal facility in Grandview, Idaho. Vermont Yankee previously  
880 received NRC approval in 2021 to ship up to 2,000,000 gallons of contaminated  
881 water to this facility. (2023 was the first year that VY used this shipment approval.)  
882 Vermont Yankee was previously allowed to ship a total of 200,000 gallons of  
883 contaminated water to this facility during 2019 and 2020.
  - 884 ○ 41 in-leakage water shipments occurred in 2024; all shipments made were via  
885 tanker rail cars.
  - 886 ○ On average, each in-leakage water shipment contained less than 0.001 Curies of  
887 radioactive materials.
  - 888 ○ Because of drought conditions at VY during the last quarter of 2024, no in-leakage  
889 water shipments occurred between early September and mid-December; in-leakage  
890 water storage capacity at VY was sufficient to hold the accumulated volume  
891 collected during this time.
  - 892 ○ In-leakage (groundwater) shipments to WCS and US Ecology Idaho facilities will  
893 continue "as-needed" in 2025.
- 894 • A total of 4,184,000 gallons of in-leakage water have been shipped to date.
- 895 • No substantial Process Water inventory was generated at VY during 2024. Hence, no  
896 Process Water inventory shipped from VY during 2024.

897  
898  
899  
900

901 **IX. Decommissioning Waste Shipments Summary**

902  
903 A summary of radiological and hazardous waste shipments made from the Vermont Yankee site  
904 during 2024 follows.

905 **IX.A Radioactive Waste Shipments Summary**

906  
907 An annual summary of Vermont Yankee’s radioactive waste shipments is published in mid-May  
908 of the following calendar year as part of the “Radioactive Effluent Release Report” filed with the  
909 US Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Vermont Public Service Department. Preliminary  
910 radioactive waste volume data available as of January 9, 2025 indicates that approximately  
911 393,734 cubic feet of radioactive waste was shipped from the Vermont Yankee site during 2024  
912 (less than 40% of the ~1,028,000 cubic feet shipped in 2023). The total weight of the waste  
913 shipped in 2024 exceeds 24,600,000 pounds (~12,330 tons).

914  
915 The total radiological activity of the shipped waste is 62.8 Curies. From the data below, this  
916 activity is significantly lower than those shipped in most previous years, but is similar to the  
917 total activity shipped in 2023:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Shipped Activity (in Curies)</u>
2024	62.8
2023	42.3
2022	7,500
2021	27,460
2020	522.8
2019	126.8

919  
920 All radioactive waste shipments in 2024 were sent to Waste Control Specialists’ (WCS) disposal  
921 facility Andrews County, Texas. 126 radioactive waste shipments (excluding contaminated  
922 water shipments) were made in 2024; 113 of which were made via railcar. The remaining 13  
923 shipments were made by truck. Over 936 radioactive waste shipments have occurred since the  
924 start of VY’s active decommissioning in 2019.

925  
926 Based on data provided by NorthStar in response to Panel questions in April 2021, the total  
927 activity of radioactive waste stored at the VT Yankee site is estimated as follows:

- 928  
929 • Total activity stored at the VY Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI), consisting  
930 of 3880 spent fuel bundles stored in 58 spent fuel cannisters: 117,176,000 Curies (roughly  
931 2,054,000 Curies per cannister)
- 932  
933 • The Greater-Than-Class-C radioactive waste cask stored on the VY ISFSI since October 2022  
934 contains approximately 175,000 Curies.



936 **IX.B Hazardous Waste Shipments Summary**

937

938 As of January 13, 2025, NorthStar Staff is still compiling its 2024 Hazardous Waste Shipments  
939 summary. Preliminary values for 2024 are as follows:

940

- 941 • 184,760 pounds (92.38 Tons) of ferrous and non-ferrous scrap metal was shipped to  
942 Mattuchio Scrap Metal (Everett, MA) facilities for recycling.
- 943 • 13,000 pounds (6.5 Tons) of ferrous and non-ferrous scrap metal was shipped to Minchello  
944 Brothers (Lowell, MA) facilities.

945

946 These are considerably less than the final weights reported in 2023, namely:

947

- 948 • 3,418,290 pounds (1709.1 tons) of ferrous and non-ferrous scrap metal was shipped to  
949 Mattuchio Scrap Metal (Everett, MA) facilities for recycling.
- 950 • 109,611 pounds (54.8 tons) of ferrous and non-ferrous scrap metal was shipped to Minchello  
951 Brothers (Lowell, MA) facilities

952

953 7 asbestos shipments occurred in 2024, resulting in the removal of 603,500 pounds (15,872 cubic  
954 feet or 587.8 cubic yards by volume) of asbestos containing materials. This volume is considerably  
955 larger than the 107 cubic yards shipped in 2022 (latest figure available).

956

957 **X. Vermont Congressional Delegation**

958

959 While the Vermont Congressional Delegation Staff did not make any presentations at any NDCAP  
960 Full Panel meeting in 2024, several energy policy staff members did meet with the NDCAP  
961 Federal Nuclear Waste Policy Committee on March 4 to discuss several spent fuel-related policy  
962 proposals before the current US Congress. Further details regarding this meeting are available  
963 in Section XI.B of this report.

964

965 Additionally, at least one Energy Policy staff member from Senator Welch’s Office attended the  
966 NDCAP Federal Nuclear Waste Policy Committee’s October 21 meeting with the Good Energy  
967 Collective (details on the Collective available in Section XI.B of this report). The Staff Member  
968 (through meeting chat) indicated that he would contact the Collective’s representatives  
969 separately to learn more about their information-gathering efforts related to DOE’s Consent-  
970 Based Siting development program. An Energy Policy staff member from Senator Welch’s Office  
971 also attended the Committee’s December 2 meeting. Further details regarding the October 21  
972 and December 2 Committee meetings are available in Section XI.B of this report

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977

978 **XI. Current NDCAP Committees**

979  
980 **XI.A NDCAP Issues Committee**

981  
982 The Issues Committee, formed in 2015 and reconstituted in 2019, is intended to provide  
983 recommendations for topics to be discussed at meetings of the Full Panel. The Issues Committee  
984 did not meet during 2024. For 2024, the Issues Committee’s function (selection of meeting  
985 topics) was performed by the Full Panel at its regular meetings, with additional interactions  
986 between the Panel Chair, the Panel Vice-Chair, and the State Nuclear Engineer as needed.

987  
988 **XI.B NDCAP Federal Nuclear Waste Policy Committee**

989  
990 NDCAP created the Federal Nuclear Waste Policy Committee in December 2020 as a means for  
991 the Panel to learn more about US national spent nuclear fuel storage and disposal issues. The  
992 Committee is developing recommendations on US nuclear waste policies for the Full Panel to  
993 consider as potential Advisory Opinions on these subjects. The Committee currently consists of  
994 the following Panel members: Lissa Weinmann (Committee Chair), Corey Daniels, Maddy Arms,  
995 Marvin Resnikoff, and David Eastman. The Committee is administered by State Nuclear Engineer  
996 Tony Leshinskie.

997  
998 The Committee met four times in 2024. Physical meeting spaces were designated for the  
999 Committee’s June, October, and December meetings. All four meetings included a Microsoft  
1000 Teams webcast to facilitate remote participation during meetings. Most of the Committee’s 2024  
1001 meetings included guest speakers (who typically joined via webcast) from individual nuclear  
1002 waste policy stakeholders, which allowed the Committee to learn more about current US  
1003 national spent nuclear fuel storage and disposal policies. Brief summaries for each meeting are  
1004 included below. The Committee continued to compile a reading list of relevant materials. This  
1005 list is available at the Committee’s webpage at:

1006 [https://publicservice.vermont.gov/public-advocacy/vermont-yankee-decommissioning/vt-](https://publicservice.vermont.gov/public-advocacy/vermont-yankee-decommissioning/vt-ndcap-federal-nuclear-waste-policy)  
1007 [ndcap-federal-nuclear-waste-policy](https://publicservice.vermont.gov/public-advocacy/vermont-yankee-decommissioning/vt-ndcap-federal-nuclear-waste-policy)

1008  
1009 This webpage also includes recordings of the individual Committee meetings.

1010  
1011 Through the course of 2024, the Committee built on its prior work in 2021 through 2023. A  
1012 summary of this earlier work is available from the Committee archive webpages at:

1013  
1014 **2021 Archive:**

1015 [https://publicservice.vermont.gov/public-advocacy/vermont-yankee-decommissioning/vt-](https://publicservice.vermont.gov/public-advocacy/vermont-yankee-decommissioning/vt-ndcap-federal-nuclear-waste-policy/2021-fnwp)  
1016 [ndcap-federal-nuclear-waste-policy/2021-fnwp](https://publicservice.vermont.gov/public-advocacy/vermont-yankee-decommissioning/vt-ndcap-federal-nuclear-waste-policy/2021-fnwp)

1017  
1018 **2022 Archive:**

1019 <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/2022-fnwp-committee-meeting-archives>

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**2023 Archive:**

<https://publicservice.vermont.gov/2023-fnwp-committee-meeting-archives>

A Committee archive webpage covering 2024 calendar year activities will be created in early 2025.

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

**March 4, 2024 Committee Meeting**

At this meeting, the Committee met with energy policy staff members from Vermont's Congressional Delegation and discussed several nuclear energy policy-related bills that have been introduced during the current Congressional session. Speaking at this session were:

- Ethan Hinch** - Energy Policy staff member from Senator Bernie Sanders' Office
- Juliet Walsh** – 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 joining the meeting were **Rebecca Ellis**, State Outreach Director for Senator Peter Welch's Office and Mark Holt, Energy Policies Specialist from the Congressional Research Service. (Mr. Holt was unable to stay for the Questions and Answers portion of this session.)

A recording of this meeting is available at:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6RsVn7KXWi8>

and through the Committee webpage.

Most of the meeting discussion centered on portions of the proposed Atomic Energy Advancement Act, which includes some compensation for communities currently hosting spent nuclear fuel storage facilities such as the Vermont Yankee Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation in Vernon, VT. Proposed funding would make \$210 million available to “nuclear plant closure communities” over a six-year period. It was noted that Senator Sanders does not support the Atomic Energy Advancement Act as written at the time since it did not include adequate compensation for communities such as Vernon, VT that presently host spent fuel storage. The Senator is calling for a funding equivalent of at least \$15 per kilogram of stored uranium per year.

1060 One provision of the Atomic Energy Advancement Act that is considered vital is the extension of  
1061 the Price-Anderson Act, which establishes liability funding requirements for accidents at US  
1062 nuclear power facilities.

1063  
1064 The proposed Nuclear Waste Informed Consent Act was also briefly discussed, which would  
1065 require local community consent for long-term spent nuclear fuel storage at a nuclear power  
1066 facility.

1067  
1068 Senator Welch's representatives added that through the current Senate Energy and Water  
1069 Subcommittee Bill, \$47 million in DOE funding is proposed to research disposition options for  
1070 spent nuclear fuel. This funding would allow investigations into spent fuel reprocessing viability  
1071 and whether current DOE regulations are adequate to support spent fuel disposition options.

1072  
1073 Thomas Renner reported that Congresswoman Balint had joined the Congressional Nuclear Fuel  
1074 Solutions Caucus. The Caucus will meet with Paul Murray, DOE's Deputy Assistant Secretary for  
1075 Spent Fuel and High-Level Waste Disposition, later this month to discuss current DOE spent fuel-  
1076 related activities.

1077  
1078 Questions brought up during this discussion included who would pay for transferring spent  
1079 nuclear fuel to a new dry cask system should a current cask require replacement for whatever  
1080 reason. Additional questions included: is Federal Assistance available for extending dry cask  
1081 operational lifetimes? What dry cask testing is being done to demonstrate that cask integrity has  
1082 not degraded / become compromised? Would transferring spent nuclear fuel to a new cask  
1083 require transporting the fuel to a centralized processing facility? If yes, would this entail  
1084 transporting a potentially degraded storage cannister to such a centralized processing facility?  
1085 Committee Chair Lissa Weinmann expressed interest in having the Committee pursue answers  
1086 to these questions.

1087  
1088 During meeting discussion, it was also noted that NorthStar had recently withdrawn the  
1089 Vermont Yankee License Termination Plan that it had submitted for NRC review in October  
1090 2023.

1091  
1092

### 1093 **June 17, 2024 Committee Meeting**

1094 At its June 17 meeting, the Committee heard a presentation from several US Department of  
1095 Energy (DOE) research and development experts who described DOE's on-going design work for  
1096 proposed Federal Spent Nuclear Fuel storage and disposal facilities. Much of this presentation  
1097 was provided by Dr. John Shultz, Storage Program Lead in DOE's Nuclear Energy Office of  
1098 Storage and Transportation. Additional experts from Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and  
1099 Dr. Sara Hogan, Transportation Program Manager in DOE's Office of Integrated Waste  
1100 Management, were also present.

1101

1102 The presentation initially described how the current Federal storage facility design work factors  
1103 into DOE’s Consent-Based Siting Process Development efforts. Through Consent-Based Siting, it  
1104 is expected that willing and informed potential host communities for spent fuel facilities will be  
1105 identified by FY2031. Accordingly, it is important to begin designing the spent fuel storage  
1106 facility and transportation capabilities now. Transportation capabilities are being covered  
1107 through development of the ATLAS and FORTIS railcars. Having a complete storage facility  
1108 design allows a prospective host community to “see” a conceptual layout of the proposed facility,  
1109 which will help clarify the facility’s capabilities and foster trust regarding promises about the  
1110 facility.

1111  
1112 DOE’s presentation on the facility design is available at:  
1113 [https://publicservice.vermont.gov/document/us-department-energy-june-17-2024-](https://publicservice.vermont.gov/document/us-department-energy-june-17-2024-presentation)  
1114 [presentation](https://publicservice.vermont.gov/document/us-department-energy-june-17-2024-presentation)  
1115  
1116 which describes the currently expected overall layout and operational support facilities that will  
1117 likely be included at a Federal Spent Fuel Storage site. Finalization of this conceptual design is  
1118 expected by 2029.

1119  
1120 A proposed spent fuel cannister integrity monitoring system was also discussed at length. The  
1121 processes behind the proposed system to measure continued fuel storage cannister integrity  
1122 were outlined.

1123  
1124 A recording of this meeting is available at:  
1125 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0flhqSndVqo>  
1126  
1127 and through the Committee webpage.

1128  
1129

1130 **October 21, 2024 Committee Meeting**

1131 Due to scheduling conflicts among several Committee members, the Committee meeting  
1132 originally scheduled for September 9 was postponed until October 21.

1133  
1134 At this meeting, representatives from the Good Energy Collective discussed the information  
1135 gathering workshops it conducted at the Governor Hunt House Community Center (immediately  
1136 adjacent to the VY site) on October 20, 21, and 22. The Collective is one of thirteen Department  
1137 of Energy funding awardees in the Spent Nuclear Fuel Repository Consent-Based Siting  
1138 Development program. Separate workshop sessions were conducted on each of the three days.

1139  
1140 The Collective’s workshop sessions are intended to gather opinions from its attendees on topics  
1141 related to policy consent, such as: what community organizations are essential for obtaining  
1142 consent; how is consent maintained; what information and resources does a community need to  
1143 make a consent decision; what additional resources are needed for regional communities to

1144 reach a common decision on consent; and what benefits and drawbacks regarding spent nuclear  
1145 fuel storage need to be understood for a community to make a well- informed consent decision.  
1146 The Collective will conduct similar workshops in several communities nationwide, including  
1147 Jackson, WY, several Texas municipalities, and at least one Native American Community. Follow-  
1148 up sessions to the October 20, 21, and 22 Vernon, VT workshops will occur in early December  
1149 (most likely December 2 through 4) and in March 2025 (dates to be determined; see further  
1150 discussion in the December 2 Committee Meeting Summary). At these follow-up sessions, the  
1151 volunteers who attended one of the October workshops will have an opportunity to provide  
1152 feedback on the Collective’s findings based on the October discussions.

1153  
1154 A recording of this meeting is available at:  
1155 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ms8fo3NSrb4>

1156  
1157 and through the Committee webpage. A copy of the Collective’s presentation giving to the  
1158 Committee members is also available through the Committee webpage.

1159  
1160  
1161 **December 2, 2024 Committee Meeting**

1162 At its December 2 meeting (recording available at:  
1163 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=biNViuRMFYk>), the Committee reviewed its 2024  
1164 activities. Written summaries for previous 2024 Committee meetings included in the  
1165 (11/18/2024 version of the) VT NDCAP 2024 draft Annual Report were reviewed. Several  
1166 minor changes to these summaries were provided by Committee members and the members of  
1167 the public attending this meeting. Additionally, at the request of the Committee Chair, a  
1168 summary of 2024 Panel expenditures will be added to the Annual Report.

1169  
1170 During discussion of the October 21 Committee meeting summary, it was noted that Good  
1171 Energy Collective, which had planned to hold follow-up sessions to its October 20, 21, and 22  
1172 Consent-Based Sighting Process Development workshops in early December, has notified  
1173 workshop attendees that the follow-up sessions have been postponed. New follow-up session  
1174 dates have yet to be announced.

1175  
1176 Committee Chair Lissa Weinmann provided a verbal summary of her observations from  
1177 attending the 2024 RadWaste Summit held in early June. A written summary of these comments  
1178 is available at:

1179  
1180 <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/document/report-june-2024-radwaste-summit>

1181  
1182 Lissa stated that she would discuss her observations further at the December 9 Full Panel  
1183 meeting.

1184

1185 Additional discussion occurred on whether Committee meetings should generate meeting  
1186 transcripts to capture all points made at individual Committee meetings. Committee Chair Lissa  
1187 Weinmann indicated that she would pursue this option further.

1188  
1189 The Committee intended to identify potential discussion topics for its 2025 calendar year  
1190 meetings. However, since several Committee members were not present, this discussion was  
1191 postponed. Several topics that the Committee identified previously that still need to be pursued  
1192 in 2025 include:

- 1193
- 1194 • DOE's Next Steps in Developing a Consent-Based Siting Process
  - 1195 • A presentation by Waste Control Specialists (WCS) on its Radwaste Disposal Operations
  - 1196 • Continued Learning on Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal in General
  - 1197 • Use of the US Justice Department's Judgement Fund for Spent Fuel Storage Expenses
  - 1198 • Issuing a Statement Emphasizing the Need to Resolve Nuclear Waste Issues
  - 1199 • Issuing a Statement Calling for an Independent Agency to Manage the US Nuclear Waste  
1200 Inventory (rather than DOE)

1201  
1202 Committee meeting dates for 2025 were briefly discussed. The Committee's next meeting will be  
1203 held on February 3, 2025. Since several Committee members were not present, it was agreed  
1204 that additional discussion will be needed before subsequent meeting dates are set in 2025.

1205  
1206 Additional Committee meeting dates will be considered in 2025 as necessary.

1207  
1208 For its February 3 meeting, the Committee plans to invite representatives from California  
1209 Congressman Mike Levin's Office to discuss the Nuclear Waste Administration Act (H.R. 9786)  
1210 that he introduced in September 2024. Representatives from Vermont's Congressional  
1211 Delegation will also be invited for their input on H.R. 9786 and any other spent nuclear fuel  
1212 policies currently being considered by Congress. Liv Marshall, an energy policy advisor from  
1213 Senator Peter Welch's Office, indicated that she would attend the Committee's February 3  
1214 meeting.

1215  
1216 Committee meeting times will continue as nominally 12 noon to 1:00 PM and will be conducted  
1217 primarily as webcasts. Physical meeting spaces will be designated on a case-by-case basis. Lissa  
1218 Weinmann will continue as FNWP Committee Chair at least through the February 3, 2025  
1219 Committee meeting.

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1227 **XII. Meeting Schedule and Priorities for 2025**

1228  
1229 During the Panel’s December 9 meeting, the Panel unanimously approved the following meeting  
1230 dates for 2025:

- 1231
- 1232 • May 12: Regular meeting discussing and assessing the Decommissioning Project Annual  
1233 Status Reports (required by PUC Case 8880); additional agenda items to be determined  
1234 as needed.
  - 1235 • September 22: Regular meeting; agenda items to be determined
  - 1236 • December 8: Regular meeting; agenda items to be determined

1237  
1238 Additionally, the Panel expects to meet in February or March 2025 to receive a US DOE  
1239 presentation on the recently published VY Site-Specific Spent Nuclear Fuel De-Inventory Report.  
1240 The date of this meeting will be scheduled based upon the availability of appropriate DOE  
1241 Presenters and most of the VT-NDCAP members.

1242  
1243 The Panel will continue to conduct its meetings primarily as webcasts. Small physical meeting  
1244 spaces will be made available for Panel meetings on a case-by-case basis. (A physical meeting  
1245 space was provided for the December 9 meeting at the request of several Panelists; at the  
1246 conclusion of this meeting, the requesting Panelists agreed that a physical meeting space was not  
1247 essential for conducting Full Panel meetings.)

1248  
1249 The Panel’s main priority for 2025 will be to continue its work as outlined in the Panel Charter  
1250 and required by the legislation that established the Panel’s composition and duties. The Panel  
1251 will also continue to consider improvements in its public outreach. Any changes to these  
1252 priorities will be communicated to the Legislature and the Governor’s Office once they are  
1253 known.

1254  
1255

1256 **XIII. Panel Composition and Duties Change Recommendations**

1257  
1258 As part of the Panel Duties outlined in Part II of the Panel Charter (see Section II of this Report),  
1259 the Panel “shall assess further changes to the Panel’s membership or duties as appropriate.” The  
1260 most recent changes in Panel composition and duties are those approved by the Legislature in  
1261 Act 54 of the 2021 Session. The Panel currently has no additional change recommendations for  
1262 its composition or duties.

1263  
1264

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1266 **Appendix A: Panel Advisory Opinions Approved in 2024**

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1267  
1268 No Advisory Opinions were approved in 2024.

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1270  
1271

1272 **Appendix B: Summary of Panel Expenditures During the 2024 Calendar Year**

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1273  
1274 The Public Service Department (Commissioner) responsibilities for VT NDCAP administration are  
1275 enumerated in 18 V.S.A §1700(g). 18 V.S.A §1700(g)(6) establishes a \$35,000 annual (fiscal year)  
1276 budget for VT NDCAP, to be billed to the owners of the VT Yankee site. Legislation establishing VT  
1277 NDCAP is available at:

1278  
1279 [https://publicservice.vermont.gov/document/2021-vt-legislation-revising-ndcap-composition-](https://publicservice.vermont.gov/document/2021-vt-legislation-revising-ndcap-composition-duties-and-funding)  
1280 [duties-and-funding](https://publicservice.vermont.gov/document/2021-vt-legislation-revising-ndcap-composition-duties-and-funding)

1281  
1282 or through Vermont Statutes Online at:

1283  
1284 <https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/chapter/18/034>

1285  
1286 A breakdown of Panel expenses incurred in the 2024 calendar year follows:

1287		
1288	Meeting Space Rentals	\$1240.00
1289		
1290	Meeting Webcast & Recording Services	\$2600.00
1291		
1292	Panelist Travel Reimbursements	\$ 2258.89
1293		
1294	<b>Total Panel Expenditures in CY 2024:</b>	<b>\$6,098.89</b>

1295  
1296  
1297

1298 **Appendix C: List of Acronyms Used in this Report**

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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	Consent-Based Siting
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
IOG	Interim Off-Gas (system)
ISFSI	Interim Spent Fuel Storage Installation
LTP	License Termination Plan
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
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
RWCU	Radioactive Waste Clean-Up (system)
RWS	Recirculating Water System
SFP	Spent Fuel Pool
SRT	Site Restoration Trust (Fund)

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

- TB Turbine Building
- VOCs Volatile Organic Compounds
- VY Vermont Yankee
- WCS Waste Control Specialists (a sister company to NorthStar)

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