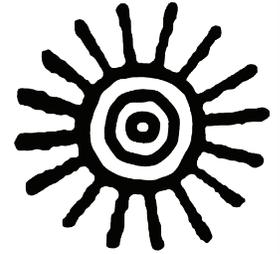


SUMMER 2021

www.nukebusters.org



# The CAN-Did Press



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CITIZENS AWARENESS NETWORK  
ACT TODAY TO CHANGE TOMORROW...

## Vermont Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel Looking at Federal Nuclear Waste Policy

Once Vermont Yankee (VY) was slated to shut down, the State of Vermont established the Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel (NDCAP). NDCAP includes representatives of VY's owner (currently NorthStar), state departments involved in decommissioning (e.g. Public Service, Natural Resources, Public Health), and citizens appointed by various state officials. NDCAP's role is to advise the state government and the public on Vermont Yankee's decommissioning and to encourage public participation in oversight at VY.

CAN and other anti-nuclear activists have been following Vermont NDCAP since its inception. Early on, we started getting glimpses of a scheme to move the High-Level Nuclear Waste (HLNW) from VY to so-called Consolidated Interim Storage (CIS) sites near the Texas-New Mexico border. The Nuclear Waste Policy Act forbids the creation of CIS before a final repository for the waste has been licensed. However, it has since become clear that both NorthStar at Vermont Yankee and Holtec at Pilgrim in Massachusetts are "ground zero" for a new business model for the nuclear industry: a decommissioning company buys a closed facility and is licensed by the NRC, decommissions it, and eventually moves the HLNW to other facilities owned by the company or its holding

company. This is a great way to solve the PR problem created by tremendous amounts of radioactive waste sitting in communities all over the country. It moves it to two states and therefore limits the number of states that have political stake in the waste. It will also generate income for the companies from our tax dollars to pay for waste storage. Approval for this "solution path" for the federal government's failure to build a permanent repository is gaining traction with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

At one point, the Vermont NDCAP Chair maintained that discussion of the disposition of the HLNW from VY, was outside the scope of NDCAP. Learning of this, people from Texas and New Mexico joined NDCAP virtual meetings and talked about  
*continued on page 3*

## National Radioactive Waste Coalition Call to Action

Citizens Awareness Network has been part of a nationwide effort to create a national coalition to bring grassroots pressure to the ongoing policy debate concerning High-Level Radioactive Waste. This summer the National Radioactive Waste Coalition will officially kick-off a national campaign to advocate for several key policies:

- Stop the Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Repository.
- Prevent Centralized Interim Storage (CIS) of commercial irradiated fuel.
- Implement Hardened Onsite Storage (HOSS) of commercial irradiated fuel at current locations until a safe permanent facility is established.

Expensive and risky schemes to move spent fuel across the country to temporary "parking lot" dumps in the Southwest are irresponsible and shortsighted. The United States has tens of thousands of tons of long-lived radioactive waste that must be permanently sequestered from the biotic world. The National Radioactive Waste Coalition will work from coast to coast to see to it that policymakers hear from the citizenry and not just from an industry that has not acted in good faith to deal with the waste problem it has created.

Please contact your Senators and your Representative and tell them Centralized Interim Storage is not an acceptable plan for dealing with power plant waste.

*continued on page 2*

## CAN's Annual Public Meeting Sept. 5

CAN's Annual Public Meeting will take place on Sunday, September 5, from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. ET via Zoom.

Find out what NorthStar and the nuclear industry are up to! Hear what is happening with nuclear waste and what CAN is planning in the next year, and of course, find out what you can do!

To attend, please go to [www.nukebusters.org](http://www.nukebusters.org) for the Zoom link.

Speakers will include Chris Williams (CAN board member), Tim Judson (CAN President and Executive Director of NIRS), and Deb Katz (Executive Director, CAN).



# Call to Action

*continued from page 1*

*Here is a sample phone message:*

Hello my name is \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_. This is a message for my Representative/Senator \_\_\_\_\_.

I am very concerned that Congress might consider allowing the nuclear industry to create parking lot dumps for high-level radioactive waste from power plants. Trucking dangerous waste all over the country for decades to simply park it in Texas and New Mexico is a short sighted, ignorant plan. Move the waste once to a scientifically sound, permanent repository. Moving this stuff twice is just stupid!

### **Connecticut**

- |              |                    |                |
|--------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 1st District | John Larson        | (202) 225-2265 |
| 2nd          | Joe Courtney       | (202) 225-2076 |
| 3rd          | Rosa De Lauro      | (202) 225-3661 |
| 4th          | Jim Himes          | (202) 225-5541 |
| 5th          | Jahana Hayes       | (202) 225-4476 |
| Senate       | Richard Blumenthal | (202) 224-2823 |
|              | Chris Murphy       | (202) 224-4041 |

### **Massachusetts**

- |        |                  |                |
|--------|------------------|----------------|
| 1st    | Richard Neal     | (202) 225-5601 |
| 2nd    | Jim McGovern     | (202) 225-6101 |
| 3rd    | Lori Trahan      | (202) 225-3411 |
| 4th    | Jake Auchincloss | (202) 225-5931 |
| 5th    | Katherine Clark  | (202) 225-2836 |
| 6th    | Seth Moulton     | (202) 225-8020 |
| 7th    | Ayanna Pressley  | (202) 225-5111 |
| 8th    | Stephen Lynch    | (202) 225-8273 |
| 9th    | William Keating  | (202) 225-3111 |
| Senate | Elizabeth Warren | (202) 224-4543 |
|        | Edward Markey    | (202) 224-2742 |

### **Maine**

- |        |                 |                |
|--------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1st    | Chellie Pingree | (202) 225-6116 |
| 2nd    | Jared Golden    | (202) 225-6306 |
| Senate | Susan Collins   | (202) 224-2523 |
|        | Angus King      | (202) 224-5344 |

### **New Hampshire**

- |        |                      |                |
|--------|----------------------|----------------|
| 1st    | Chris Pappas         | (202) 225-5456 |
| 2nd    | Ann Kuster           | (202) 225-5206 |
| Senate | Margaret Wood Hassan | (202) 224-3324 |
|        | Jeanne Shaheen       | (202) 224-2841 |

### **Rhode Island**

- |        |                    |                |
|--------|--------------------|----------------|
| 1st    | David Cicilline    | (202) 225-4911 |
| 2nd    | James Langevin     | (202) 225-2735 |
| Senate | Sheldon Whitehouse | (202) 224-2921 |
|        | Jack Reed          | (202) 224-4642 |

### **Vermont**

- |          |                |                |
|----------|----------------|----------------|
| At-Large | Peter Welch    | (202) 225-4115 |
| Senate   | Patrick Leahy  | (202) 224-4242 |
|          | Bernie Sanders | (202) 224-5141 |

- *Chris Williams,*  
*CAN Board; VTCAN Organizer; NIRS Board Chair*



Our vision of Vermont Yankee  
*Together we can make it happen!*

 **CITIZENS AWARENESS NETWORK**  
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## NDCAP and HLNW

*continued from page 1*

the heavy burden they already carry from uranium mining and processing, as well as weapons testing, and stated very clearly that they did not consent to the waste being brought there. The Panel agreed that HLNW was indeed in the Panel's scope.

The Vice Chair of the Panel at one point asked the Panel to revisit a letter signed by another former Chair (without consultation with the full Panel) that was in support of consolidated interim storage. After discussion, the Panel withdrew this support, a small but significant victory.

Vermont NDCAP now has a committee focused on Federal Nuclear Waste Policy that is delving more deeply into waste issues and will recommend an advisory opinion to the full Panel. CAN members regularly attend these committee meetings and have succeeded in broadening the group's purpose statement to include hearing from experts outside the government and the nuclear industry. The Principal Man of the Western Shoshone spoke on Yucca Mountain at one meeting, and there are plans for a presentation on Hardened On-Site Storage (HOSS) of HLNW at reactor sites, the option that CAN prefers and which has never been seriously considered in the US.

Vermont's NDCAP meetings are not as exciting as organizing to shut down a nuke, but they are important. Precedents are being set. If

this NDCAP adopts a meaningful advisory opinion on national HLNW policy, Vermont's state and federal representatives will have to take notice. Please join us in our efforts.

For further information on Vermont NDCAP and to attend virtual meetings, go to: <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/electric/ndcap>

*- Ann Darling, CAN Board member*



# Broken Promises... Our Next Video Production

The woman facing the camera conveys the unmistakable emotional burden of needing to tell, as though against her will, a story of hardship, betrayal, and loss, endured in order to protect the viability of her community from the dangers to life—and our democratic way of life—due to the abuses of the atomic industry nearby.

The video footage we witness provides the central story of the second video production in a year, from CAN's ad hoc production team, in a series called "Broken Promises." The woman who tells that story is Deb Katz, CAN's founder and Executive Director. Hers is a true tale about waking up to her own victimization—and then choosing to transform herself into an unrelenting activist, a thorn in the side of the nuclear machine.

Our team's production head, Michael Schreiber, continually focuses the group toward telling a compelling, personal story; and because we must traverse some darkly serious terrain, a bit of humor helps make the ride easier. In service to this mission, we have engaged the help of Court Dorsey in his role as Will Newcomb, the atomic industry's representative. Mr. Newcomb may well find his way into each video of the series, with provocative insights and compelling refutations. Also on board is Kent Klitgaard, Professor Emeritus of Economics at Wells College, who will address some of the motivations that drive industries to pollute, obfuscate, and bend our vestigial democratic functions to their ends.

We call our series "Broken Promises" because the atomic power industry has always tried to obscure their enormous liabilities—and in so doing, has always made promises it cannot keep. Today, they hope to convince ordinary citizens that nuclear



Courtesy: www.sanonofresafety.org

power should be seen as part of a carbon free energy path, while siphoning resources away from sustainable energy and trying to take our focus off the killer toxicity of radioactive waste. Due to the urgent need to expose these lies, we began our series with "Nuclear Power to Save the Climate—You've Gotta Be Kidding!", which has had thousands of views since completed.

We also want to shine a light on the consequences to living in proximity to atomic power, and so Deb's story is central to our piece

on reactor communities. Following will be at least two other presentations—one on living with the "decommissioning" process of a shuttered reactor (Pilgrim in this case) and in the other, a Diné (Navajo) organizer trying to deal with plans for the shipment of extremely radioactive High-Level Waste to her community, for so-called "Centralized Interim Storage."

Many of us know that the atomic industry is not concerned with "sustainability" in the same way that our families and communities are. The industry sustains their profits, sacrificing the communities that are exposed to radiation at every step of the fuel chain—often poor, non-white, and largely excluded from the decision-making. In part, our work is intended to give voice to people who struggle to combat these injustices.

You can help by getting informed. Stay tuned for our next video release, and if you haven't already, please watch and like our first video "Nuclear Power to Save the Climate? You Gotta Be Kidding!" here: [https://youtu.be/b69v\\_hHOue8](https://youtu.be/b69v_hHOue8)

Donate to CAN to keep the videos coming. Contact us if you want to explore offering your talents.

-Christopher Nord, Board member, CAN & C-10



©delevingne

## Renewables

We need everyone to contact their US Senators and Representatives concerning the Biden infrastructure bill.

Solar PV is the easiest and cheapest 100 percent renewable energy source everyone can participate in. There are provisions in Biden's bill which would "level" the playing field for all.

Ask your congressional delegation to extend the Federal tax credit of 30 percent for 10 years or more for renewable solar energy installations.

Additionally, low-income, non-profits, and municipal entities need the direct payment in lieu of tax credits to level the playing field. Ask for 100 percent Federal ITC (Investment Tax Credit) value paid directly to the solar PV system owner. This should be available for 10 years as well.

In MA, ask both your house representative and senator to support Senate Bill S2169, An Act Relative to Distributed Solar. We need full net-metering credits for PV systems. We also need to remove the cap on the state tax credit for solar PV/hot water systems.

We need all of these and more to have any chance of 50 or 80 percent reduction by 2030.

Thank you,

- Claire Chang,

CAN Board member; The Solar Store of Greenfield

# Navajo Nation Takes Feds to Task

“From 1944 to 1986, nearly 30 million tons of uranium ore were extracted from Navajo lands,” according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) website on Cleaning Up Abandoned Uranium Mines (AUMs). Some remediation has been done through two five-year clean up plans, but is severely underfunded, and sites are never restored to pre-mining conditions.

U.S. EPA’s website, and the agency itself, frames the cleanup of 524 AUMs on Navajo Indian Country as a collaborative effort between the U.S. EPA, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of Energy, Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Navajo Area Indian Health Service, and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry—the federal agencies charged to do cleanup for the Navajo Nation. Over the course of the public comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on the proposed cleanup of the United Nuclear Corporation/General Electric Northeast Church Rock uranium mine, it has become glaringly clear that the federal government is not in collaboration or negotiations with Navajo at all, but rather dictating how to proceed.

Navajo Nation EPA Superfund Director, Dariel Yazzie, and Navajo EPA staff, have been working to uphold the requests of the Diné Red Water Pond Road community (RWPRC) which will be most impacted if the controversial plan is approved. UNC/GE proposes to “cleanup” the uranium mine by disposing of one million cubic yards of mine waste atop an existing mill waste repository, located at the site of the 1979 Church Rock spill. For

over a decade, RWPRC has called for moving all radioactive wastes out of the area entirely. RWPRC is opposed to the cleanup plan, knowing it may take several years before another is proposed.

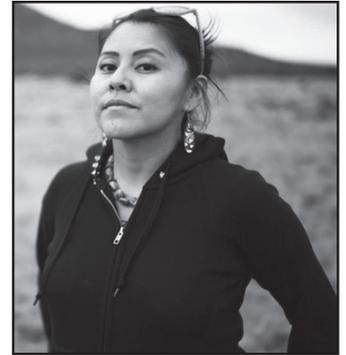
Recently, Yazzie exposed how the U.S. EPA doesn’t allow Navajo Nation a seat at the table to make major decisions regarding cleanup, funds, contractors, etc. Yazzie has also slammed NRC for moving forward a plan that he explains is “incomplete,” as it does not include any of the recommendations from RWPRC or Navajo Nation, and is lacking information on design, engineering, and environmental studies and impacts. Yazzie joins RWPRC and countless others who have criticized NRC for moving forward with virtual public meetings during the pandemic, while locals did not have access to internet or phone service and were under lockdown due to the severity of Covid-19 on Diné communities.

In her cover letter responding to the DEIS, Navajo EPA Executive Director Valinda Shirley identified the failure of the U.S. in “assuring the stability and integrity” of the initial impoundment dam which breached in 1979 “despite the approved engineering.” Shirley explains, “This failure has drastically contributed to... mistrusting of the NRC, DOE, UNC, EPA and their assurances on any environmental remediation activity.”

Navajo Nation EPA is not only holding the federal government accountable to cleanup the Church Rock area, but is also supporting community demands that the United States be named as the responsible party to fund cleanup of all abandoned uranium mines and to work with affected communities to cleanup to the highest standards.

More info regarding Bad Uranium Cleanup Plan: <https://nukewatchinfo.org/a-second-churchrock-spill-in-the-making/>.

- *Leona Morgan, Co-founder, Nuclear Issues Study Group; Diné/Navajo community organizer*



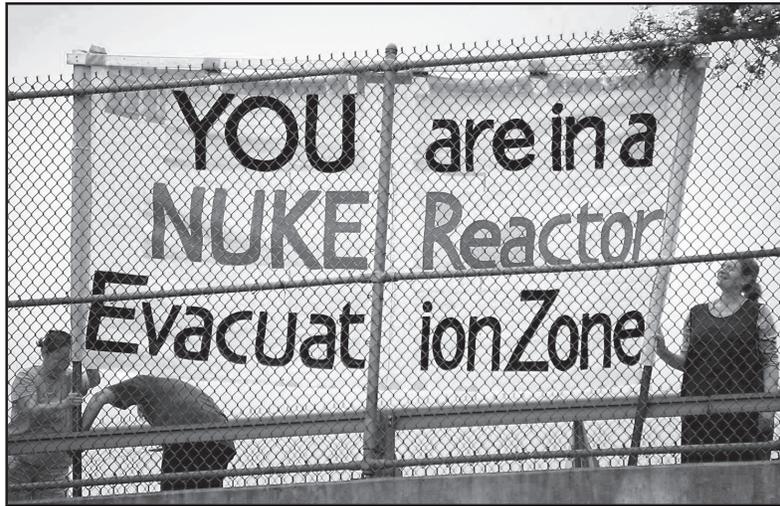
## ***Thank You from CAN Staff & Board We couldn't do it without you!***

Bob Bady • Beyond Nuclear • Block Foundation  
Boston Downwinders • Burden Foundation • Paul Burton  
C-10 Foundation • Cape Downwinders  
Connie Childs • Dan Keller • Dean’s Beans  
Lionel Delevingne • Court Dorsey • Kristina Graham  
Guacamole Foundation • Gerry Hersh  
Lintilhac Foundation • Julian Mejia  
New England Grassroots Environmental Fund  
Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS)  
Rothschild Foundation • Michael Schreiber  
Shantigar Foundation • Amy Shollenberger  
Bob Stannard • Van Itallie Foundation  
Vermont Yankee Decommissioning Alliance

# Cape Downwinders Demand Better Public Health & Safety Standards for Pilgrim Nuke Decommissioning

*“In June, 2019, Entergy closed the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station in Plymouth, MA. However, tons of highly radioactive “spent” nuclear fuel will remain in Plymouth for the foreseeable future and, in our informed opinion, will be the single greatest safety and security issue facing surrounding communities and the state.”*

- MA Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel 2020 Annual Report



• **H.2459**, an Act relative to emergency planning

This bill orders an assessment of Barnstable and Essex Counties by the MA Emergency Management Agency to determine need for radiological emergency plans. Full text here: <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H2459>

These three bills are currently assigned to the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security. Committee members here: <https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J22>

So who is paying attention? WE ARE! And WE NEED YOUR VOICE NOW to move the message for public health and safety! Safety is a human right!

While disreputable Holtec, now owner of Pilgrim, depletes the decommissioning trust fund and accelerates the tenuous move of very hot nuclear waste to substandard containers, attempts to have some state accountability needs wide-ranging support from the concerned public. The risks associated with the high-level waste dumps at Pilgrim, Vermont Yankee, Yankee Rowe, and Seabrook still reach into our communities.

Cape Downwinders requested our local elected officials to file legislation [HD.4212 and SD.2622] but they declined to do so. A late bill was filed as a constituent requested bill. We need legislators from across Massachusetts to sign on.

• **HD.4212** and **SD.2622**, are Acts to improve public health and safety standards in communities around aging nuclear reactors and high-level nuclear waste dump sites.

These identical bills call for expansion of the MA designated 10-mile Nuclear Power Plant Emergency Evacuation Area to 50 miles including nuclear waste dump sites until the waste leaves the site. Full text here: <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD4212>

The following bills are in the Joint Committee for Public Health and Safety:

• **H.2227**, an Act incorporating the public health lessons learned from the Fukushima nuclear disaster.

This bill would expand the emergency evacuation zone to 20 miles, distribution of KI pills to 50 miles, and radiation monitoring to 20 miles for operating nuclear reactors (Seabrook). Full text here: <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H2227>

• **H.2254** and **S.1507**, an Act relative to monitoring dry casks of spent nuclear fuel

This bill would require real-time heat, helium, and radiation monitoring of each cask at nuclear waste dumps reported to the DPH. Please note- if a leak was identified, there is no effective mitigation plan in place. Full text here: <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H2254>

• **S.1412**, an Act relative to public safety

This bill mandates nuclear power plant owners notify fire and police within 20 miles when there is a “radiological malfunction”. Full text here: <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/S1412>

## TWO STEPS TO TAKE TODAY!

1. Contact your state representative and state senator and request they co-sponsor the bills. Find your legislators here: <https://malegislature.gov/Search/FindMyLegislator>

2. Contact committee members and urge support to vote bills favorably out of committee for a full floor vote this legislative session.

- Diane Turco,  
Cape Downwinders, Executive Director

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### Vermont:

P.O. Box 16, Hancock, VT 05748 • 802-767-4276

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