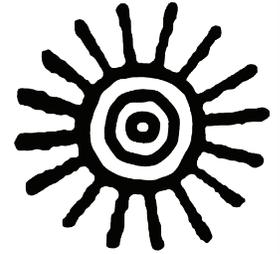


# The CAN-Did Press



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

## Where is Mr. Clean when you need him?

No matter what Entergy says, an active terrorist target is not in the public good for the citizens of Vermont, Massachusetts or New Hampshire. With Vermont Yankee's closure the potential for an accident or an act of malice decreases, but Vermont Yankee does not suddenly become a benign industrial site just needing the help of Mr. Clean! And firing 165 of its skilled workforce before the fuel is removed from containment doesn't seem like a good idea.

The nuclear industry, including Entergy, likes to boast about how safe and terror proof its nukes are. It also likes to present decommissioning as a small potato—however neither is true. So what's the truth?

The industry doesn't like to talk about the vulnerability of its fuel pools to terrorism. A National Academy of Science (NAS) Report confirmed the concerns of both state governments and local citizens.

GE Mark 1 and 2 reactors (Vermont Yankee is a Mark 1) are structurally the most vulnerable reactors in the country. VY's filled

to capacity fuel pool (7 stories above ground outside of containment) poses an unacceptable risk. Millions of curies of high-level waste are stored in this pool with a metal roof. An attack on the pool in which fuel cladding caught fire could result in a 25,000 square mile area being uninhabitable for decades. An accident in which the fuel pool loses water and the fuel is partially uncovered can lead to the same consequences. The NAS Report on fuel pool vulnerability states that such a fire could lead to the dispersal of radioactive plumes up to 100 miles.

And the cleanup of a highly contaminated nuclear site located in a rural neighborhood – really, is it a piece of cake? Before the cleanup of Yankee Rowe, decommissioning was classified as a 'major federal action' under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requiring oversight by the NRC and EPA. It required substantial documentation including a decommissioning plan that at Rowe was over 300 pages filled with commitments that could be verified. It required an onsite resident inspector to oversee the project. Citizens could obtain hearings, which included cross examination of experts on the issues. All that evaporated with Rowe. Yankee Atomic engaged in a dirty, cheap and illegal decommissioning. It stripped and shipped the reactor with only a phone call from an NRC inspector!

*continued on page 3*

## Should the kids be protected?

As the tri-state region moves forward with preliminary planning for the decommissioning of Vermont Yankee, it's time to put the well-being of school children in Vernon and Hinsdale at the top of the list of priorities. For decades the owners of Vermont Yankee and local politicians have paid little attention to the potential health risks related to students attending schools located very near the plant. Vernon Elementary School sits across street a few hundred yards from the reactor building. Hinsdale Middle/High School is located just across the Connecticut River. Prudence dictates that all of the children attending both schools, from the moment VY started up, should have had their health monitored over a period of decades by epidemiologists. But such a public health regime would have been an acknowledgement that potential risks existed. That is something the nuclear industry would rather conceal than address forthrightly.

As Entergy and the community move forward with the different phases of decontamination and clean-up of Vermont Yankee, it is time to examine the options for protecting young children from the risk of radiation exposure during the movement of spent fuel, the cutting and storage of radioactive internal parts, and the ultimate dismantlement of buildings and infrastructure at the site.

- Chris Williams, CAN/VCAN, Vermont

## The Future of Solar in MA

Massachusetts will either continue its leadership in renewable energy generation and efficiency or it will falter. On a number of fronts, the utilities, natural gas suppliers, ISO NE (operator of the NE elect grid) and nuclear reactors are fighting to turn back the tide of renewable energy for the New England region.

With the tabling of bill, H4185, a Task Force has been seated to make recommendations to the MA legislature. The Task Force will be conducting at least two public hearings, one in eastern MA and one in the west. Dates will be posted as soon as they are announced. We call for everyone to attend and comment to protect and create energy resiliency for our communities.

Aside from the Task Force, there is plenty of work to educate and inform the legislature on the desire for democratic and equal access to solar PV for all. With 80 percent of the MA population not able to install solar PV on a house roof for reasons of tenancy, shading, or aesthetics, Virtual Net Metering is the only avenue available. H4185 would have eliminated community shared solar projects across the state. Everyone's voice is needed to inform

*continued on page 2*

## VY Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel Update



The Vermont Yankee Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel (NDCAP) continues to meet and these meetings are proving to be a conduit for much information-sharing with the state of Vermont and the local community. Each meeting allows time for the public to speak and ask questions. The NDCAP now has its own web page with all of the documents from the meetings posted: <http://publicservice.vermont.gov/topics/electric/nuclear#vsnap>. The final meeting of the year will be on December 18th, with location to be determined—please plan to attend.

The Vermont Department of Public Service is collecting comments on the Vermont Yankee Site Assessment and the draft PSDAR, as the state compiles its comments for Entergy on these documents. The Site Assessment can be found at the website above, and the draft PSDAR can be found online: <http://vydecommissioning.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/SAS-Appendix-C-Post-Shutdown-Decommissioning-Activities-Report-DRAFT.pdf>. Comments should be submitted to [anthony.leshinskie@state.vt.us](mailto:anthony.leshinskie@state.vt.us).

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CAN continues to meet with the Vermont Attorney General and the Commissioner of Public Service to raise issues of concern, update them on our 2.206 petition, and educate them about decommissioning. These meetings have been productive, and we will continue them in the coming months.

Looking ahead to the legislative session that will begin in January, CAN will be working to ensure that the EPZ (Emergency Planning Zone) is kept intact and that funding continues to be provided for emergency services until all the spent fuel is out of the fuel pool and moved into dry cask storage. We will also continue to monitor and participate in NDCAP activities as that panel presents its report and potentially makes recommendations to the legislature and the Vermont administration.

We still have a long way to go before we can rest with regard to Vermont Yankee, but it is clear that CAN's involvement and advocacy has created the best possible process for a merchant plant to decommission. We will continue to make sure that community members are informed and engaged, and we will fight to hold Entergy responsible for the legacy it will leave behind.

Thanks for your support and commitment to a clean energy future!

Sincerely,

Amy Shollenberger, the new "People's Lobbyist"

802-793-1114 • [www.action-circles.com](http://www.action-circles.com)

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## Future of Solar in MA

*continued from page 1*

the legislature of our desire for democratic access to solar PV generated electricity.

The proposed electric rate hikes by the utilities directly reflects the stranglehold natural gas has on the region's electricity profile. Now almost 50 percent of our electricity is generated by fracked natural gas. The proposed Kindermorgan pipeline will not alleviate the constraint until 2018 at the earliest. Why commit to a pipeline expansion when we have solar PV, other renewables and energy storage available today? The \$3-4 billion could be better spent on energy efficiency, fixing leaks in the existing pipeline, reduce methane leaks which add to the carbon load, increasing solar PV across the Commonwealth, and moving the utility to a smart grid.

The EPA Clean Power Plan is currently drafted to prop up the old nuclear reactors that are still chugging along. Since when is nuclear power "clean or renewable"? The reactors want a part of the renewable pie in order to stay in business. NIRS, UCS, CAN and many other orgs are calling on the EPA to revise the plan. Please submit your comments at <http://www.nirs.org>.

This is a time of great possibility and change. We can't be complacent with the utilities and corporations as they are charg-

ing forward with their own agendas. The legislature has an opportunity to ensure our progress from centralized to distributed, locally controlled generation which financially benefits the local economy. The growth in green sector jobs has been a boon for the Commonwealth. Educate the legislature and give them the support to stand up for resilient, local, livable communities!

Call or write your state rep/senator; find contact information at <https://malegislature.gov/People/Search>

Tell your story about climate change, nuclear reactor dangers, and moving to a democratic and fair renewable energy future for all as soon as possible.

Solar is working in MA!

- Claire Chang, Solar Store of Greenfield, Greenfield, MA  
01301 413-772-3122 [info@solarstoreofgreenfield.com](mailto:info@solarstoreofgreenfield.com)

**Thanks!**

*We couldn't have done it without you:*

Action Circles • Block Foundation • Paul Burton  
Dean's Beans • Lionel Delevigne • Charlene Divoky  
Guacamole Foundation • Lintilhac Foundation  
Solar Store of Greenfield • Van Itallie Foundation  
Solidago Foundation • Derrick Jordan • Sara Creighton

## CAN Report

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CAN sued NRC over the illegal decommissioning of Rowe claiming that NRC was violating its own regulations. As we made our way to Appellate Court in Boston, Yankee Atomic continued to strip and ship highly contaminated reactor internals south—over 135,000 curies—to Barnwell, South Carolina, a poor, rural, 46 percent African American community. In our next CAN-DID press we'll look at the issues of Rad waste and environmental racism.

### CAN Wins a Pyrrhic Victory!

So did we win? Yes we did! NRC was found in violation of the National Environmental Policy Act, the Administrative Procedures Act and the Atomic Energy Act. Besides offering us a hearing on a stripped and shipped reactor, what did NRC do in response to acting illegally? Usually nothing, but it acted swiftly to codify what it did at Rowe and effectively deregulated decommissioning!

### Clean-up is no Small Potato

Now there is little oversight for decommissioning. Entergy can submit a 30 page document which outlines its cleanup of a 650 MW reactor with few stated details or commitments, no resident inspectors to be seen, and a dwindling staff that has little expertise with the issues encountered in cleaning a contaminated site. At Rowe the health physicists were constantly admonishing staff to step away from contaminated internals that they were cutting up and preparing for shipment. At Connecticut Yankee, workers entered the fuel transfer canal without adequate protection and were exposed to radioactive alpha particles! Contaminated materials at both Yankee Rowe and CT Yankee somehow found their way offsite and were discovered in the community! That's called a loss of radiological control. Some contaminated materials were found at a nearby daycare center.

### Why Not Paint Some Cows on a Security Fence?

The NAS (National Academy of Science) called for early removal of fuel to "improved" dry storage. The dry storage approved by the state for Vermont Yankee's fuel is not "improved" unless you call a wooden barrier fence a successful deterrent for a plane or a shoulder held missile. Scientists in the field have called for fuel to be removed, stored in reinforced steel and concrete canisters, bermed with earth and separated from each other by more than the 6 feet required by the NRC. The footprint for the Yankee site is just about 140 acres making berming individual casks impossible. But the wooden fence could be replaced with a perimeter berm to protect the fuel and the community by limiting the radioactive "shine" (as the industry calls it) that the casks emit. Remember VY is a nuclear neighbor to two elementary schools.

The State of Vermont has created a Citizens Advisory Panel to engage with Entergy in as transparent and democratic process



as possible. Although it doesn't have the power to alter Entergy's plans, it is a forum to air the complicated issues involved with cleaning up a highly contaminated radioactive site and it provides citizens with the ability to learn about the issues and potentially pressure their legislators to take action on their behalf if necessary.

There are no good choices when it comes to nuclear power's toxic waste. There are only better choices over really bad ones. This bind is in itself unacceptable and intolerable. The threat of terrorism only makes it worse. Citizens Awareness Network has worked for years to raise consciousness about fuel pool vulnerability for our tri-state community.

Onsite storage of fuel must be linked to protection of the community as well as those living in the EPZ (Emergency Planning Zone). Vermont Yankee is located in a neighborhood—as hard as that is to believe—with two elementary schools “across the street” from this reactor as well as homes, the Vernon town hall and farmland. Can we count on Entergy or NRC to do the right thing? Where is Mr. Clean when you need him?

*- Deb Katz, Exec Dr, CAN*

### CAN Contacts

CAN Central/MA: Box 83 Shelburne Falls, MA 01370 • 413-339-5781

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

CNY: 140 Basset St., Syracuse, NY 13210 • 315-425-0430

[www.nukebusters.org](http://www.nukebusters.org)

# Let's Party!

After 42 years, Only a few more Days until Vermont Yankee stops making power, stops making waste, and our Connecticut River valley is finally nuclear free.

## Wow!

What do you do when -  
... you finally get what you've been working towards for years?  
... you know that the lives of your children and your community will be better because of what you have done?  
... you realize how much richer your life has become by working with thousands of amazing people?

## *You Party! That's What You Do!*

### Vermont Yankee Victory Celebration

Party for a Nuclear Free New Year

7:30 pm Saturday January 3rd

St. James Episcopal Church,

8 Church St, Greenfield MA

(at the corner of Federal & Church Streets,  
just north of the center of town)

*with music and dancing with*

**SIMBA**

&

**the JOHN SHELDON BAND**

Tasty Brews from the People's Pint

Suggested Donation \$5 - \$20

\* Treats: Contributions of desserts, finger food, wine and non-alcoholic beverages appreciated! Contact Nancy 802-380-3362 or [nancykbraus@yahoo.com](mailto:nancykbraus@yahoo.com)

\* Rides: Can you offer a ride? Do you need a ride? Contact Leo 802-275-7889 or [blindcommissioner@comcast.net](mailto:blindcommissioner@comcast.net)

\* Roadies: Got a strong back? We need "roadies" to help Klondike Sound haul equipment in at 4:30pm and/or out at 11pm. Contact Bob 802-802-258-7750 or [bobbady@gmail.com](mailto:bobbady@gmail.com)

\* Clean Up Crew! You know who you are & you don't want to the party to end. Contact Leslie 802-763-8459 (c) or [safeandgreencampaign@gmail.com](mailto:safeandgreencampaign@gmail.com)

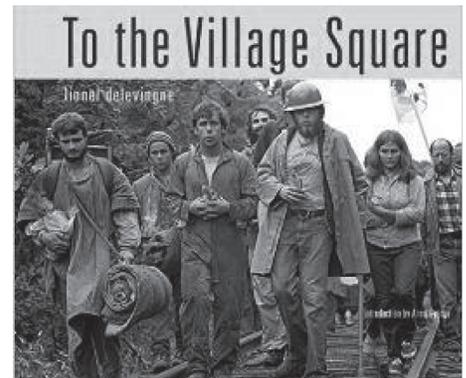
## How CAN we thank you?

• **Donate \$1 to \$99 to CAN** and we'll send you A gracious, appreciative Thank You and a mini-poster from Frank Zappa!!

• **Donate \$100 to CAN** and we'll send you One lb of Dean's Beans Nukebusters Blend Organic, Fair Trade Coffee!

• **Donate \$150 to CAN** and we'll send you *To The Village Square: From Montague to Fukushima: 1975-*

*2014*, A 40-year photo history of the anti-nuclear movement signed by the author photojournalist Lionel Delevingne



## Be a Lucky Winner & Help CAN

The Citizens Awareness Network is holding a Calendar Raffle Fundraiser. Prizes will be awarded every day of the month in which we run the raffle! So you'll have 30—that's right—30 chances to win a prize. The value of the prizes each day will range from \$30-\$50. All entries have a chance to win each day. There is no limit to how many prizes you can win during the month! You could win 'em all! Winners will be notified the day their name is drawn. We'll be selling raffle tickets in the new year. Remember - 30 chances to be a winner! Help support the Citizens Awareness Network.

