

Solar Panel Raffle

Help *Citizens Awareness Network* fight for responsible and thorough decommissioning of dangerous nuclear power plants



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Let's end the use of dangerous and unaffordable nuclear power and replace it with sustainable and reliable energy solutions!

Citizens Awareness Network - P.O. Box 83 - Shelburne Falls, MA 01370

SOLAR PANEL RAFFLE EXTENDED TO VALENTINE'S DAY!

The election of Trump has created a new political landscape that will require CAN and our allies to fight new battles and revisit some old ones. Your support is critical to help us prepare for the upcoming challenges. Buy a raffle ticket!

WINTER 2016

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The CAN-Did Press

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



Don't Let New York's \$7.6 Billion Nuclear Boondoggle Come to New England!

In August, New York did something that was unthinkable: offering massive subsidies to old nuclear reactors so they DON'T shutter. NY's decision has implications for New England, with nuclear corporations lobbying for similar bailouts and subsidies. A sneak attack to subsidize Millstone 2 and 3 reactors failed in CT this year; it is expected to resurface in 2017. With a Trump administration, the industry and friendly federal allies will lobby for a national subsidy for old nukes.

The NYS subsidies are undermining the progress resulting from the closure of Vermont Yankee. Entergy announced plans to close both Pilgrim in MA in 2019; and the FitzPatrick reactor in NY in early 2017. But as a result of the \$7.6 billion bailout NYS Gov Cuomo pushed through, FitzPatrick may not shut down after all. As part of a back room deal to pass the subsidies, Entergy agreed to sell FitzPatrick to nuclear giant Exelon, which owns the 3 other reactors to be subsidized in NYS.

Ginna, another NY reactor that was slated to close next year,

will continue operating. That's pulling two defeats from the jaws of victory, for those counting. The subsidies don't protect Indian Point near New York City-Cuomo still insists he wants to close. However Indian Point could qualify for the subsidies within a couple of years. That would raise the subsidy bill to \$10.4 billion over the next twelve years! That is all ratepayer money that WOULDN'T go towards renewables, efficiency, and the carbon-free, nuclear-free transition we need.

So why is Cuomo doing this? He says NYS can't let nukes shut if the state intends to meet its goals for reducing carbon emissions. The governor is mistaken. There's no evidence that reactor closings prevents NYS from reducing its carbon emissions, and Cuomo isn't concerned that he's subsidizing 3 reactors while pushing for Indian Point to close. Massachusetts created a renewable energy plan this year that will save far more electricity than Pilgrim generates.

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You Got To Be Kidding!

So Entergy is attempting to cut its losses in the Northeast! This includes selling the Fitzpatrick reactor in NYS to Exelon, shutting Pilgrim in 2019, and now selling Vermont Yankee to NorthStar. By relieving itself of this albatross, Entergy eliminates its obligations for site remediation and guarding the HLNW. It relieves itself of any liability. In exchange, it turns over a wholly inadequate decommissioning fund to NorthStar. If Entergy couldn't cleanup the reactor site with an inadequate decommissioning fund, what is NorthStar going to do? It all sounds good- cleanup and release of the site. But is it? Entergy came into Vermont with a song and dance about acquiring an old nuke, making it whole again and making a profit. Now its shuttered and selling the decommissioning fund to a corporation with a lot of promises—a fast track of fuel to dry storage by 2018 rather than 2020, site cleanup beginning in 2020 and done in 2029 and potential removal of HLNW to interim storage and then site remediation and release!

What could be wrong with this picture?

A dirty and cheap cleanup! CAN fought the inadequate

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Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel

The Vermont Yankee Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel (NDCAP) held several meetings since the last issue of the CAN-DID Press.

At the June 23, 2016 meeting the panel received input from staff members representing Sen. Bernie Sanders and Rep. Peter Welch. It was reported that Rep. Welch is supporting legislation to approve the concept of interim high-level waste storage. This ill-conceived scheme would have thousands of shipments of dangerous radioactive waste moving, over several decades, to an above ground parking lot dump. In the event a permanent repository is located and constructed, the waste would have to be moved again! This is an expensive and dangerous policy initiative.

At the Sept 23, 2016 meeting the issue of groundwater incursion into the turbine building at VY was discussed at length. The steady volume of tritiated water that Entergy is collecting, storing, and shipping for processing is expensive and will likely remain a time consuming burden on the decommissioning process.

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High Level Nuclear Waste: Boondoggles, Propaganda and Environmental Justice

Although the nuclear industry & Federal government committed to create a solution for high-level nuclear waste (HLNW) disposal, no acceptable solution exists. Federal legislation mandated a repository & Nevada was targeted & billions expended to establish Yucca Mountain. This boondoggle failed due to site unsuitability, corruption, inadequate safeguards & Nevada's opposition. As the wrangling over Yucca continues, the industry has a pressing need to create some solution since dangerous waste piling up at reactor sites undermines its position that nuclear is 'clean and safe.' Interim storage sites do not have to meet the strict environmental standards that have plagued Yucca Mountain. The sites targeted for "interim disposal", like the sites selected for operation, are routinely low-income, rural, people of color and Native American communities. The industry pits nuclear communities against each other- reactor communities fear inadequate casks, lack of onsite protections and HLNW abandonment by the Feds. Given the abysmal record of leaks and inadequate environmental protections, targeted communities don't want dangerous nuclear waste in their backyard. Communities face unconscionable choices—short- term economic survival or long-term health and safety.

Parking Lot Dumps for High level Radioactive Waste?

The nuclear industry is pressing Congress to establish an "interim" storage policy. In essence, the industry wants to establish parking lot dumps for the 70,000 tons of high-level waste stranded across the country. Interim storage sites do not have to meet the strict environmental standards for Yucca Mountain.

CAN supports a Carbon Pollution Tax in Vermont

Vermont needs a carbon pollution tax sooner rather than later. Citizens Awareness Network, along with Vermont Citizens Action Network and the Vermont Yankee Decommissioning Alliance, is a member of Energy Independent Vermont, (www.energyindependentvt.org). EIV is a large coalition of community, environmental, and low-income interests who have come together to advocate for the passage of a carbon pollution tax that will make polluters pay and reward taxpayers who work to reduce fossil fuel consumption over the coming decades.

The concept has been in place in British Columbia since 2008. In BC fossil fuel use is down and other taxes have been cut dramatically. A carbon pollution tax is a win/win proposition. We can't afford to wait for Congress to act. Vermont has the opportunity to lead the way and show the rest of the country what a serious climate mitigation strategy looks like. CAN will be reaching out to our VT members and asking them to contact their legislators to support legislation during the 2017 legislative session in Vermont and to help promote support for the Carbon Pollution Tax in your community.

- Chris Williams – CAN/VCAN, NIRS

Rep. Michael Conaway (R-TX) has introduced the "Interim Consolidated Storage Act". The bill would amend the Nuclear Waste Policy Act to allow for the shipment and storage of HLNW at above-ground sites. One "parking lot" dump would likely be sited in Andrews County, Texas. This proposal is a cynical, shortsighted ploy by a desperate industry. The negative impact on the host community is enormous and cannot be ignored by reactor communities now saddled with the waste. States, as well as reactor communities, fear the industry and Federal government will abandon the deadly waste and abdicate its responsibility to find a permanent solution. As understandable as these fears are, reactor and waste communities must work together to support a scientifically sound and environmentally just solution.

GRASSROOTS SUMMIT: CAN in coalition with regional, national and grassroots groups, is organizing a Nuclear Waste Summit in Chicago. The Summit will bring reactor, waste and national groups together to create unified action on HLNW policy. It is essential that reactor and waste communities work together to create effective strategies and actions to defeat industry initiatives that target vulnerable communities and provide protections for reactor communities forced to be guardians of the world's most toxic and long-lasting waste. Until the criteria of sound science & environmental justice drive any disposition, HLW must remain onsite.

NEW ENGLAND NUCLEAR WASTE TOURS: We will organize tours, bringing organizers from the Southwest to New England to educate and share their concerns about parking lot dumps and the targeting of immiserated communities. If you are interested in your community participating in the tours contact CAN for more information.

- Deb Katz- CAN

Citizens Advisory Panel

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It was also reported that Entergy and the State of VT had reached an agreement regarding a new emergency plan. The plan is very much scaled back from the version that was in place through the years when the plant was operating. The VT Div of Emergency Mgt and Homeland Security provided details and responded to questions from panel members and the public. Entergy will be paying for the plan because the legislature provided for cost recovery from the company as a result of an amendment to the budget bill during the 2016 legislative session.

On Nov 8, 2016 Entergy announced its intention to sell VY and transfer the NRC license to Northstar Inc. At this time details and specific environmental and financial information are not available. The transaction will have to be reviewed by the VTs Public Service Board and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The announcement claims that the sale will provide for a faster clean-up and transfer of spent fuel to dry cask storage. CAN will be following the proposal and analyzing the details as the process moves forward. As they say, the devil is in the details.

- Chris Williams- CAN, VCAN, NIRS

You Got To Be Kidding!

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cleanup of Yankee Rowe and Connecticut Yankee. Those utilities had to get rate increases to cover cost over runs. Want an example? Yankee Rowe cost \$39 million to build and over \$700 million to cleanup. Ratepayers were stuck paying for the escalating cost—CT Light and Power customers continued to pay cost overruns till 2015 for CT Yankee's cleanup. With other nuclear decommissionings, nuclear corporations transfer its license to a cleanup company like Energy Solutions and then when cleanup is completed, Energy Solutions transfers the license back. Not so with NorthStar—it will retain the license for the dry cask storage. What corporation would want such a liability? NorthStar is banking on the Texas waste parking lot dump becoming a reality to make a profit. It wants to ship the high level-waste to Texas to cut corners abdicating responsibility for a permanent solution..

Entergy must win approval from the VT Public Service Board as well as the NRC to sell Vermont Yankee to NorthStar. This is a radical change in NRC licensing. Understand this- it will be very hard for the state of Vermont to resist this proposal. It wants the waste gone. In fact we all want the waste gone. But do we want our problem sent to a parking lot in Texas lacking environmental safeguards and no actual "solution?"

Who Is NorthStar Anyway?

NorthStar specializes in demolition, hazardous materials abatement, soil and mold remediation and site restoration. NorthStar would be working with three partners to handle the cleanup— AREVA, Burns & McDonnell and Waste Control Specialists (WCS). WCS' role is important because it would be "responsible for waste management, packaging, transportation and disposal.". WCS opened the controversial low-level waste dump in Andrews County, Texas. Entergy plans to accelerate transfer of VY's HLNW to dry cask storage by two years. Entergy claims NorthStar will complete decommissioning and clean up in nine years. Sounds great right? Unfortunately it's not. In reality, Entergy is attempting to relieve itself of any liability for the Yankee site, and is turning its albatross over to NorthStar. In all likelihood, the Vermont Yankee site would never be released for unrestricted use. Effective and thorough cleanup costs money—a lot of money. The Yankee Rowe site has yet to be released for unrestricted use 25 years later—even though it spent over \$700 million and engaged in a rapid decommissioning.

And what about NorthStar? Would NorthStar actually be liable for any contamination problems on site or for leaking fuel casks in Texas? Would Entergy really be off the hook?

In November, the Justice Department filed an antitrust lawsuit blocking a merger of Energy Solutions and WCS-both are major players in Vermont Yankee's cleanup. DOJ states that Energy Solutions should not be allowed to acquire Texas-based WCS, a subsidiary of NorthStar- the deal would create a "near monopoly" in the low-level radioactive waste disposal business leading to higher prices and lower quality service. So why should we believe NorthStar when the Feds argue that consolidation of the nuclear waste industry will lead to higher costs and substandard cleanup? The end result- a dirty and cheap cleanup with another limited liability corporation making big promises that it can't deliver.

- Deb Katz- CAN, Exec Dr

Nuclear Boondoggle

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What it's really about is politics: the governor is up for reelection in 2018 and doesn't want to deal with job losses in conservative upstate counties. And that's a political bug that crosses state lines, whether the issue is jobs or plain old corporate influence. With NYS as precedent, the push for subsidies in CT could gain momentum forcing ratepayers to cover nearly \$5 billion in subsidies to Virginia-based Dominion, the owner of Millstone 2 and 3. And if New Hampshire picks up the bug, that could be nearly \$3 billion for Seabrook's owners in Florida.

This means New Englanders need to organize now to ensure these nuclear bailouts don't gain ground, and steal our clean energy dollars to prop up this failed industry. If we win this fight, we will make New England nuclear-free AND carbon-free. Stay tuned for more news and ways you can get involved.

But we also have to make sure these subsidies don't go national. In addition to costing New Englanders up to \$8 billion to subsidize Millstone and Seabrook—and even more if Entergy decided to cancel Pilgrim's closure and cash in—it would cost up to \$280 billion nationwide. We can't afford to flush money down the nuclear drain, just to risk meltdowns and make another decade of radioactive waste. NIRS has started a petition opposing nuclear bailouts, to be delivered to the next President and every governor.

[<http://bit.ly/nonnukebailout>]

- Tim Judson- Pres, CAN Bd of Directors, NIRS

Fighting for Renewable Energy in Massachusetts - All Hands on Deck!

Now that Trump is headed to the White House, we need to make sure that MA Gov Baker and the State House hear us loud and clear.

1. Restore Full Retail Net Metering Credits for community shared solar and low-income projects.
2. No Minimum Monthly Reliability or Fixed charges.
3. Eliminate Net Metering caps.
4. Establish Time of Use Rates.
5. 20% Solar PV by 2025!

Tell your State Senator and Representative
<https://malegislature.gov/Search/FindMyLegislator>
Tell Governor Baker, call 617-725-4005
<http://www.mass.gov/governor/constituent-services/contact-governor-office/>

More Info: Solarisworking.org

Thanks!

We couldn't have done it without you:
Block Foundation • Lintilhac Foundation
Van Itallie Foundation • Guacamole Foundation
Charlene Divoky • Paul Burton • Lisa Clark
Gerry Hersh • Deans Beans Coffee • Lionel Delevigne

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