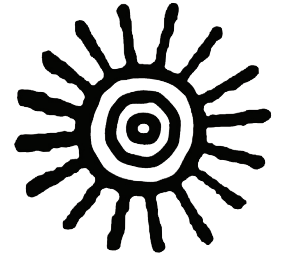


# The CAN-Did Press



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

## Decommissioning: Where's the Money?

Nothing exposes the colossal failure of nuclear power better than decommissioning. For all the assurances by Entergy and now NRC that Vermont Yankee will have enough money in its decommissioning fund, don't be fooled. Every reactor before closure claimed that there was enough in the decommissioning fund to cover the cleanup.

Reality has repeatedly proven that those nuclear corporate claims are false. What has been demonstrated are soaring decommissioning costs and with public utilities, ratepayers being egregiously charged for decommissioning costs on closed reactors that no longer contribute to the public good.

So, should we believe Entergy when it tries to assuage legislative as well as public concerns over Vermonters' being forced to cover cost overruns as well as babysitting toxic high level waste? Not on your life! Some recent realtime examples should lead Vermonters to question just how expensive cleanup of this "clean" technology can be.

Yankee Rowe, a 185 megawatt reactor, cost \$39 million to build; it was estimated to cost over \$200 million to cleanup, then \$325 million and it has now reached over \$725 million dollars. This does not include the costs of maintaining the high level nuclear waste on-site for decades, if not centuries to come. The Connecticut Yankee reactor in Haddam, CT, smaller than Vermont Yankee, was estimated in 2002 to cost over \$800 million dollars to clean up; it is now estimated to cost over \$1 billion dollars.

If Entergy is granted relicensing, the cost of decommissioning will increase dramatically. Closing Vermont Yankee in 2012 and retaining its skilled workforce in a thorough clean-up of this highly contaminated site is a conservative solution to an insane problem. Permitting Vermont Yankee to continue to operate while generating more waste requiring higher and higher cleanup costs is ludicrous.

The Vermont Senate passed legislation that would require Entergy to have the full cost of decommissioning in its fund now. This bill is now in the VT House. It would be important for people to let their Representatives know just how important this bill is.

-Deb Katz, Executive Director, Citizens Awareness Network

## The Safe and Green Campaign

The next one to two years offer an unprecedented opportunity to close Vermont Yankee (VY) and embrace non-polluting, renewable power sources within the state of Vermont and the surrounding region. To succeed, this effort needs to be supported and augmented by wide-scale citizen activism at the grassroots level. That is what **Safe & Green** is about.

A critical place to start building citizen activism is within a 20-mile radius of the reactor—that is, among the people and towns most at risk, most in harm's way. This area of VT, NH, and MA contains much opposition to the plant, with many individuals having a history of opposing the plant during the past 35 years. When those most in danger and thus most likely to speak out are silent, it is taken as a form of passive support. The goal of the Safe & Green campaign is to organize positive and creative public energy to close VY and encourage the critical shift to safe, sustainable, affordable green energy.

We're off to a great start organizing the towns in the 20-mile radius. So far, six towns in VT and 15 towns in MA have had initial meetings to inform and activate a group of interested and motivated people.

In MA, most of the towns are submitting resolutions for their Town Meetings to be held in April and May. These resolutions oppose the re-licensing of VY past the 2012 license expiration

*continued on page 3*



Our vision of Vermont Yankee in 2012  
*Together we can make it happen!*



## Update from Bob Stannard *Lobbyist for the people*

Let me begin by saying it is an honor to have been chosen by the Citizens Action Network to serve as its first ever lobbyist in Vermont.

Like most Americans, I knew very little about nuclear power and the nuclear industry a few short months ago. In September of '07, after nearly a quarter of a century of being

in politics either as a State Representative or as a lobbyist, I was quite content working as the Exec. Director of the non-profit, Downtown Development Corporation in Bennington, VT. I will never forget the day I received a phone call from a friend and former colleague who suggested, no, actually she insisted, that I take a look at the issue of continued operation, and waste production, of the Entergy Nuclear plant in Vernon, VT. Until that day I believed what I had been told—that nuclear power was clean, safe and inexpensive. It took only a few short weeks to shake my confidence when I saw the photographs of the collapsed cooling tower. I am now convinced that we absolutely have to find a better way to create electricity than this precarious technology.

I am fortunate to be able to put a lifetime of political experience to use to try to make a difference in the small state of my ancestors. For eight generations my family has lived in the Dorset area. Those who came before me worked hard every day to ensure that the lives of those coming after them would see a better life. For the first time we are poised to reverse that philosophy. Nuclear technology leaves a deadly legacy for future generations and that is wrong. When we see Abu Dubai, an oil rich country, building a new, state of the art city powered by renewable, alternative power sources we have to start asking, “what is our end game?” They sell us their oil, which we pay handsomely for, and then use our money to build buildings that use the sun’s power for its electricity. What is wrong with that picture?

I have entered into a commitment with the Citizens Awareness Network to do whatever it takes to ensure that the Entergy plant closes in 2012 as scheduled. Running an outdated plant that could not be built using today’s standards, at a rate 20 percent greater than it was designed 40 years ago and allowing it to do so for an additional twenty to forty years is, to be blunt, insanity. However, insanity may be the word that best defines this technology and the desire of some people who want to increase our reliance on it.

Since January we have accomplished much in the Vermont State House. This was to have been the year that we took the time to quietly begin to move elected officials to our side of the issue. It has proven to be anything but quiet. Four separate pieces of legislation in which CAN has an interest have made it past the crucial “crossover date”—the date that the House and Senate must cease working on their own bills and work on bills that have crossed over from the other body. If legislation fails to make it from one body to the other by “crossover,” the bill is dead for the year.

For an interested party to have a single bill make it through

this bottleneck is an accomplishment. The fact that all of our bills made it through is nearly unprecedented.

*The various bills are as follows:*

- **S. 364** – calls for a truly independent inspection of the plant, complete with professional, public oversight
- **S. 373** – instructs Entergy to fully fund the decommissioning fund. It also addresses the concern of Entergy’s proposed corporate restructuring that would allow them to place the VY plant into a “Limited Liability Corporation.”
- **S. 294** – would establish an authority that would hold hearings around Vermont to determine if there is a better place to site the nuclear waste then next to the reactor in a flood plain on the banks of the Connecticut River as is the current plan.

A fourth bill would allow the VT Public Service Board to have a say in the sale of the electrical “switch yard” currently owned by Entergy. This has passed both the House and Senate and is on the Governor’s desk.

The House Natural Resources Committee is poised to take up a Joint House Resolution, J.R.H. 55, instructing the Department of Public Service to update the State’s energy plan by December 1, 2008. The state has done very little in regards to planning for its energy future. I believe that this is a strategy to allow ENVY to continue operating.

Having your voice heard in the halls of Montpelier has, without a doubt, made a difference. It could not have happened without your support, and for that you should be as proud of your actions as I am grateful.

Sincerely,

Bob Stannard, *Lobbyist for the people*

### Meet with Your Legislator to Share Your Concern for Our Future!

CAN is focused on making your voice heard in the MA legislature. We have been concentrating on forming small groups in different legislative districts to meet with the State Representatives and State Senators to voice our concerns regarding the dangers Vermont Yankee poses to MA residents. We want Governor Patrick to take a stand against Vermont Yankee’s continued operation. He has not done so and has remained silent on the issue affecting our western Massachusetts communities.

At stake is the 20 year re-licensing of Vermont Yankee and the lack of funding for sustainable, local, affordable renewable energies.

Each group first goes through a teach-in about the particular issues that have occurred over the past several years since Entergy bought Vermont Yankee in 2002. Hattie Nestel has been accompanying the groups to visits with their representatives.

Anyone interested in forming or being part of such a delegation please call Hattie Nestel at 978-249-6224 or email [Hattieshalom@verizon.net](mailto:Hattieshalom@verizon.net)

---

# The Vanishing Window

It seems to me that everything we have worked for over the last 30 years is up for grabs right now. The crisis over global warming has opened the possibility of shifting public awareness, and political will, toward the need for truly sustainable energy sources. The atomic industry obviously knows this, and they are already spending millions to paint nukes “green.” But there is much more at stake now than the future of atomic power, because our opportunity exists within a vanishing window in time—seven to ten years if we’re lucky. Beyond this brief moment, we will find ourselves living through the steep ascent of Al Gore’s parabolic curve of consequence—where little can be done to prevent a global environmental transformation. Because the survival of whole nations (e.g. the Maldives) and the viability of whole regions of our familiar world will turn on the outcome of the struggle over atmospheric carbon, I believe that our fight for a sustainable future will increasingly be recognized as a pivotal showdown in the global struggle for human rights.

The atomic power industry’s grab for the “green” mantle is so much more dangerous than any lies they have previously devised. The cold fact is that because of the time and capital needed to build new nukes, implementing safe, sustainable electrical production, accompanied by energy efficiency technologies, is seven times more efficient at decreasing global carbon than nuclear. This means that for every \$100 spent on nuclear instead of the safe sustainable route, an extra ton of carbon gets released to the atmosphere (Keepin and Kats, Rocky Mountain Institute, [www.rmi.org](http://www.rmi.org)). Since we have no time left for anything less than the most effective carbon reduction strategy, giving the green light to an atomic “renaissance” would put an end to any chance of forestalling what looks for all the world like an impending environmental disaster. Therefore we must get the sustainable path in place.

Ready or not, we are engaged in a “battle of the story,” with the nuclear industry selling their “nukes are cool” image where necessary to gain access to a second generation of reactors. The obfuscation, half-truths, and outright lies embedded within their story serve this end. Collectively, we need to understand that the Atomic guys know the kind of campaign they must wage, are well experienced and funded, are moving in lockstep toward their victory, and take advantage of the fact that many of their adversaries do not know what kind of battle this is. Pragmatically, in this field of play the terms are only obliquely about “truth,” and more immediately about the “manufacture of consent.” If we want what we know to be true to prevail, then we must commit ourselves to the field where it’s all going down.

What must be done? We must pressure Congress to change national energy policy immediately. We must spearhead a push toward safe, sustainable (that is, non-nuclear) energy independence, to be pursued nationally with the intensity of JFK’s initiative to put a man on the moon. By 2000, US renewables had already produced more total energy annually than nuclear (Alan Noguee, Union of Concerned Scientists, [www.ucsusa.org](http://www.ucsusa.org)); and research conducted by the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research ([www.ieer.org](http://www.ieer.org)) showed that wind energy is “far more economical” than the plutonium-based technologies. Contrary to the atomic industry’s line, safe renewables are now ready to ramp up to carry “baseload” production. Regional groups such as C-10 Research and Education Foundation ([www.c-10.org](http://www.c-10.org)), and Washington-based organizations such as Beyond Nuclear ([www.beyondnuclear.org](http://www.beyondnuclear.org)), continue to make the case.

Congress should be made to pass legislation requiring the institution of Hardened On-Site Storage for the atomic industry’s ‘spent’ fuel. As currently configured in unhardened fuel pools and dry cask storage around the country, these High Level Waste (HLW) inventories constitute the most dangerous and vulnerable terrorist targets on US soil. Dr. Gordon Thompson of the Institute for Resource and Security Studies ([www.irss-usa.org](http://www.irss-usa.org)) calls these poorly secured HLW/reactor sites “... pre-deployed radiological weapons that await activation by an enemy.” Since the environmentally racist and unworkable plan to store the nation’s HLW in Yucca Mountain, Nevada, faces enormous hurdles and may never be implemented, commercial reactor sites may become de facto interim storage for a century or more. Obviously then, we must find and implement a workable long-term isolation strategy for these extraordinarily toxic and long-lived wastes.

We must focus our organizing efforts regionally in such a way that the oldest and/or most dangerous atomic reactors be targeted for shutdown. In the Northeast, the Citizens Awareness Network (CAN, [www.nukebusters.org](http://www.nukebusters.org)) has now focused its efforts on the shutdown of Indian Point complex in New York (only 30 miles from New York City), and opposition to the license extension of the Vermont Yankee reactor near Brattleboro. Vermont Yankee’s case typifies the opportunity nationally to halt the license extensions now pending for the Boiling Water Reactors (BWR’s)—the most dangerous US reactors because of their design and age. They are also virtually unprotected from the robust level of terrorist attack used against US targets in 2001. Since atomic reactors supply less than one quarter of US energy demand, and these BWR’s total only one third of our commercial reactors, there is no question that the implementation of energy efficiency measures could cover the loss of capacity from these reactors within the time frame their current licenses provide.

Don’t despair. Help make it happen.

- Christopher Nord, founding member, Clamshell Alliance, co-founder, Citizens Within the Ten-Mile Radius, board member, C-10 Research and Education Foundation, Vice President, Citizens Awareness Network.

## The Safe and Green Campaign

*continued from page 1*

date, support the workers’ continued employment during decommissioning and the development of renewable, sustainable energy sources. Other groups are focused on activities and testifying at important hearings now happening in the area.

Claire Chang has been named as the part-time coordinator to help all the town groups and to keep abreast of the constantly changing political and governmental scene. She will be working with town coordinators and other activist groups to organize the efforts and activities which focus citizen pressure on the VT Legislature and other state agencies.

The Safe and Green campaign is sponsored by the Citizens Awareness Network (CAN), New England Coalition on Nuclear Pollution (NEC), and Nuclear Free Vermont (NFV).

Contact Claire, [cchang@nukebusters.org](mailto:cchang@nukebusters.org) or 413-863-8952

### We Couldn't Do It Without Your Help! Our Thank You

We want to thank all of our donors, our supporters and volunteers who make our work possible.

We also thank the foundations which have supported our efforts:  
**Solidago Foundation • Van Itallie Foundation**



# WestCAN Update on Indian Point Re-Licensing

The final battle has been joined. When Entergy applied to relicense the reactors at Indian Point, they initiated a complicated three-year process dictated by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Forty-eight other nuclear plants have already gone through the same procedure; 11 others are pending. So far, all have been approved; for most the NRC did not even go through the more rigorous evaluation in the hearing stage. If you think this approval rating indicates that the process is skewed in favor of industry, you are correct.

The only way to trigger a hearing is by filing contentions. Our contentions list reasons the NRC should deny the plant a license to continue to operate. Under NRC regs, concerns about the evacuation plan, population density, high-level radioactive waste and terrorism are not considered topics for contentions. Likewise, radioactive water leaking into the Hudson is not on the agenda because "it has already been entered into the company's corrective action program." Only two categories for complaints are allowed: Environmental Concerns and Aging Equipment.

Contentions were filed by WestCAN and other environmental and grassroots organizations. Even better, so did the Att'y General of the State of NY and the NY Dept of Environmental Conservation. WestCAN submitted 50 contentions, perhaps the strongest being on Fire Safety. Susan Shapiro has been the driving force behind these contentions. She and Assemblyman Richard Brodsky will act as our pro bono lawyers as the hearings progress. Our expert witness is Ulrich Witte. His knowledge and familiarity with relicensing has given us a strong set of contentions. Ulrich is not pro bono and we need to pay him for his time and knowledge.

Challenging Entergy and the NRC has turned out to be extremely expensive, time consuming and stressful. Thanks to the fundraiser by Pete Seeger, Ani DeFranco and others, Ulrich has been paid to date, but his further testimony will be required to support the contentions.

During the initial proceedings it seemed like NRC lawyers were acting as co-counsel with Entergy to find reasons to strike our contentions and deny us a hearing. On one occasion we were required to resubmit 7,000 pages of testimony because the page number for one exhibit was slightly off. So far our contentions have survived and we will be allowed to appear before the Atomic Safety Licensing Board.

Whatever contentions are left standing after the initial arguments will go to the hearing next summer. After the hearing, an appeal is possible to the Chairman of the NRC. It is not hard to predict the outcome of his decision. After that, appeals may go to the Appellate Court. Expect a court case at the end of the appeals

process no matter what the decision is. It is clear that it will take an act of Congress before this flawed process can address public health and safety.

You can help us by donating money to offset the costs of copying (the NRC requires huge amounts of copies for everything submitted—our last bill was \$800) and to continue to pay our expert witness whose services will be required as we move forward with hearings.

For more information call 914-954-6739, 914-325-4620 or email [ElieWestCAN@gmail.com](mailto:ElieWestCAN@gmail.com) or send a check made out to WestCAN to 2a Adrian Court, Cortlandt Manor NY 10567

- Marilyn Elie, Margo Schepart and Mark Jacobs, co-founders of Westchester Citizens Awareness Network, a grassroots group that has opposed Indian Point for over a decade. WestCAN is a member of the Indian Point Safe Energy Coalition: more than 70 groups from the NY area that oppose the continued operation of Indian Point.

## VT CAN Organizing

Media outlets across Vermont named Vermont Yankee as the "number one" news event of 2007. The 2008 General Assembly has made the plants' decommissioning, safety, and high-level waste crisis central points of debate and action. Entergy is seeking to spin-off VY and four other plants into a new limited liability corporation that is raising numerous questions and concerns about the aging reactors' future.

Against this backdrop Citizens Awareness Network is gearing up and reaching out to Vermonters. With a vote in the legislature expected early next year; the time has arrived for citizens to stand up and let their voices be heard! We already know many Vermonters favor an energy future which doesn't include Vermont Yankee. We also know many people have been less than vocal about their position on Vermont Yankees' future. Many probably feel the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the electric utilities, and state regulators have made up their minds and won't listen to the public. CAN believes the legislative vote in 2009 is an opportunity that no concerned citizen should pass up.

CAN will be organizing statewide in the coming year. Whether it's door to door, over the phone, through the mail, via the Internet or at local events, we will be encouraging the citizens of Vermont to make history and create an historic energy future in the Green Mountains.

- Chris Williams, VTCAN [cevan@sover.net](mailto:cevan@sover.net)

### CAN Contacts

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

CT: 54 Old Turnpike Road, Haddam, CT 06438 • 860-345-2157

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

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

WESCAN: 42A Adrian Ct., Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567 • 914-739-6164

NYCAN: 144 North 11 St, Brooklyn, NY 11211 • 718-963-9105

NHCAN: 14 North Main St, Newton, NH 03858 • 603-382-8153

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

### Here's a Way To Help, and Get a Groovy T-Shirt



These one-of-a-kind, hand-made, batiked T-shirts and handkerchiefs are donated by the artist Debra Reger, Corinth, VT, to help CAN raise money for our work. With a donation of \$50 or more we will send you one of these beautiful T-shirts or handkerchiefs.