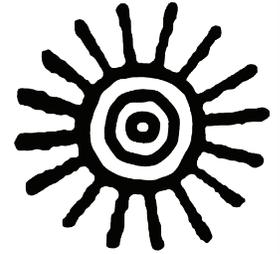


The CAN-Did Press



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

Women Arrested at Vermont Yankee Protest

Seven women members of the Shut It Down affinity group were charged with unlawful trespass and unlawful mischief after chaining themselves to the inner security gate at Entergy's Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant in Vernon, and spray painting "Danger" and "Shut It Down" in the facility's driveway September 21. They were released pending a November 23 court date.

Two Vermonters, Nina Swaim, 72, of Sharon and Martha Hennessey, 55, of Weathersfield were among the seven including Massachusetts residents Paki Wieland, 67, and Frances Crowe, 91, of Northampton; Hattie Nestel, 71, and Marcia Gagliardi, 62, of Athol; and Ellen Graves, 69, of West Springfield.

The Vermont state's attorney dropped charges and cancelled the September 21 court date for their August 10, 2010 trespass at Vermont Yankee. The women said that even though prevented from going to court, they decided to appear in Vernon on the date to urge officials to shut down the facility. Power plant, state, and federal spokesmen have acknowledged radioactive leaks at the



reactor that threaten human and environmental safety.

Radioactive tritium, cesium-137, and strontium-90 have been found in wells at the plant and traced to underground piping there. Recently, state officials acknowledged that plumes of radioactive water have made their way to the Connecticut River.

Several of the women spray-painted warning messages in the Vermont Yankee driveway while others chained themselves to the innermost security gate. All of the women asserted they took action to alert the public to the danger of the facility and to shut it down immediately in the interest of the public good.

Vernon Police, led by Chief Mary Beth Hebert, and Vermont State Police transported the women to the Vernon Police Station for booking after those chained were freed with bolt cutters.

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Meeting with the Russians

On October 4, CAN met with delegates taking part in the Russian Nuclear Decommissioning Study Tour. The Russian and Norwegian delegates interviewed, filmed and listened intently to CAN's story and organizing strategies eager to learn from our successes. There were 10 representatives present from the Russian delegation as well as representatives from Center for Safe Energy, New England Coalition and Citizens Awareness Network.

Deb Katz and Rosemary Bassilakis spoke of CAN's efforts to shutter the Yankee Rowe and Connecticut Yankee reactors. Early work involved educating ourselves and the community to the ongoing harms of nuclear power, becoming watchdogs, and engaging with the NRC and other government agencies. Mobilizing grassroots opposition to the systemic problems plaguing both reactors and holding regulators and nuclear corporations accountable, lead to the early closure of both nukes. Celebration of the

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Life After VY: Brattleboro Decommissioning Forum

CAN, Safe & Green, and the New England Coalition have begun a series of forums about the decommissioning of Vermont Yankee. From experiences with shutdowns at New England nukes in Connecticut, Maine, and Massachusetts, we have learned that decommissioning a nuclear power plant is a complicated process with many variables and concerns. Vermont Yankee's owner Entergy has a long history of maximizing short-term profit at the expense of safety, the environment, and the public. As we prepare for Vermont Yankee's closure, it is necessary that citizens become

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Citizen's Lobbyist Bob Stannard's Report – Winter 2010



The leaves have turned and winter is just around the corner. We now know that the next governor of the State of Vermont is Peter Shumlin. The next Lt. Gov. will be Phil Scott (R-Washington County). Sen. Scott was one of the four people to vote “yes” for continued operations for the VY plant on February 24 of this year.

Lt. Gov. Brian Dubie-R was defeated by Senator and Pres. Pro Temp, Peter Shumlin-D by roughly 3,000 votes out of the 270,000 votes cast. You will

recall that Sen. Shumlin won the Democratic primary by only 210 votes out of 72,000 votes cast. Shumlin knows how to come from behind. It didn't hurt that Mr. Dubie ran arguably one of the most negative campaigns ever witnessed in Vermont.

The issue of whether or not Vermont Yankee continues to operate beyond its scheduled closure date of March 2012 was a major issue of the campaign. Days before the election a story appeared on the conservative web-blog Vt. Tiger and then reported on WPTZ-TV stating that Sen. Shumlin attended a private meeting in which he indicated that he might allow the plant to continue to operate if the plant had another owner.

The front-page news story the day after the election was that Entergy is looking to sell the plant. Oddly enough this story was leaked (no pun intended) to the press by none other than Comm. David O'Brien, head of the Public Service Dep't.

In the news accounts, CAN's lobbyist, Bob Stannard, was quoted as follows: “a proposed sale seems very questionable with 16 months remaining on Yankee's license. What difference does it make whether they sell the plant or not? There's no way they could pull the sale together before the state's certificate of public good expires. This isn't like me selling my car. This is a long and arduous process to sell a power plant.”

Exelon, one of the names mentioned as a potential buyer, has a spotty record as a nuclear operator. Yankee immediately needs a

new \$100 million condenser, which Entergy has been postponing until its future is guaranteed. This plant's a dog, and it's an old dog that needs a \$100 million fix!

Before the election the IBEW electrical union held a press conference declaring that the plant is safe. Their message had not changed since the previous press conference that was held last winter.

What wasn't reported at their press conference was the press release of 11/07, by the union workers at the VY sister plant in Plymouth, MA, known as the Pilgrim Plant. In their release they emphatically stated that they did not want to be associated with the VY plant because it's so poorly managed, and from their perspective, unsafe. This memo was sent out shortly after VY allowed its cooling towers to collapse through neglect.

What's happened since '07 that might cause the union workers to change their position? The answer is simple. A lot has happened—but none of it good. We've seen more leaks, more lies, more mishaps, and more radiation coming from this plant to the point where the majority of Vermonters are now tired of hearing about it and want to move on.

The concerns of the workers are justified on one level. Nobody wants to lose their job, but we should ask this question; if Entergy is such a great company, why would it be so savage as to lay off its employees when there is so much work that could be done? If they decommissioned the plant as they promised they would, and not mothball it for 60 yrs as the NRC would now allow them to do, there would be plenty of work for many years to come.

The decision to abandon the employees is Entergy's decision. The decision to abandon the community giving is Entergy's decision. The decision to fight the Town of Vernon over property taxes is Entergy's decision.

We've heard for years what a good corporate neighbor Entergy is and how good they are for our community and towards their workers. Let's see if that's really true. Instead of abandoning the plant and their workers Entergy should do what they said they would do and begin to decommission the plant immediately, but slowly. Over the ensuing years they could continue to be good corporate citizens.

The elections may be over but the fight over Vermont's energy future is by no means over. Like those who once manufactured and used the slide rule fought against the advent of the calculator, we can expect to hear more from John McClaughry, Howard Shaffer, the Vt. Tiger, the IBEW and those who are threatened by Vermont entering a new energy paradigm. In the end we will have the gratification of knowing we did the right thing and that the fight was well worth the effort.

Respectfully submitted by,
Bob Stannard, Citizen's Lobbyist for VCAN
(VT Citizen Action Network), bob@bobstannard.com

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Is There Life Without Yankee?

Entergy has begun another terror campaign to frighten Vermonters into believing that life without Vermont Yankee will be worse than Entergy's systemic mismanagement, delayed maintenance and endless leaks and lies.

Why? Because it wants to redo the historic Senate vote of last year that will close the plant in 2012! As incredible as that may seem, Entergy is serious about trying to get the Senate to do the vote again. In order to convince the public that the plant should stay open, they are not only continuing with the same message of fear that we've heard before, but are raising the stakes to create greater uncertainty. This "good neighbor" is now threatening to fire its skilled workforce instead of employing them to clean up the site; It's renegeing on its promise to move its high level waste and clean up underground contamination below 3 feet; it's threatening to end its corporate contributions and reduce its taxes in Vernon even though it intends to keep the site intact for 30 to 60 years; and yes, it's now even threatening to sell this albatross to another foreign nuclear corporation.

Some people don't fully understand Entergy's tactics and how they manipulate public opinion. Entergy will go to any length to give the appearance of being a "good neighbor." As only one example, they bought X-mas lights for Brattleboro, and supported local charities to win the favor of citizens. The truth is that Entergy does these things for their own benefit—to make the town feel obliged to support them. The same people don't seem to understand that Entergy hasn't been trustworthy, and its present threats just confirm that they will do what is best for Entergy—not the citizens who are at risk because of Vermont Yankee.

They threaten that if the plant closes down, all the workers will have to be fired. In fact, what's been found at other decommissioned reactors is that although some workers left the

Decommissioning Forum

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knowledgeable about decommissioning so that we may serve as an effective counterforce to Entergy's high-octane lobbying.

The October 26th forum, the first in a series, was designed to educate activists before the 2011 Vermont legislative session begins in January. About 70 people attended. Deb Katz, Ray Shadis, and Bob Stannard covered the decommissioning landscape. Deb talked about CAN's long-running experience with the Yankee Rowe and CT Yankee decommissionings, and Ray imparted some of his extensive involvement with Maine Yankee's decommissioning. Bob addressed the upcoming Vermont Legislative session, and the prospects of Entergy's attempts to overturn last year's decisive Senate vote to prohibit continued operation of VY.

Forums in the coming months will be held throughout Vermont, as well as in western Massachusetts. The next Forum will be held in Greenfield, MA at Greenfield Community College's Downtown Campus on December 8th from 7-9 pm. For more information or if you are interested in hosting a forum in your community contact CAN at 413-339-5781 or 802-767-9131.

- Bob Bady, Safe & Green Campaign, Brattleboro, VT bob-bady@gmail.com.

area, they were replaced by many other workers brought in for decommissioning. What Entergy's threats highlight is the lack of foresight by the Douglas administration in preparing for the inevitable—Vermont Yankee's closure.

As a diversity of sources is needed in any sound energy policy, it's also needed to replace Vermont Yankee and create prosperity and jobs for Vermonters. We can replace VY's power with other sources—and it's already happening! CVPS and GMP have signed a contract with a New Hampshire wind farm for 90 megawatts of power.

This next legislative session will not only determine VY's future, it will also determine corporate accountability for the mess Entergy wants to leave behind. We must reject Entergy's scare tactics and let our legislators know Vermonters want this reactor shuttered and the site cleaned up responsibly. We made democracy work last February and we can do it again!

Act today to change tomorrow!

-Deb Katz, Executive Director, CAN

Solar Panel Raffle II

During 2007 the Citizens Awareness Network decided to hire a fulltime professional lobbyist to work the Entergy Vermont Yankee issue in Montpelier. This required the creation of an affiliate organization with the latitude to focus on influencing elected state officials regarding the provisions of Act 160, the law that gives Vermont legislators the right to deny a license extension to Entergy. We formed VCAN, the Vermont Citizens Action Network to raise the funds to retain a professional lobbyist. For the past three legislative sessions Bob Stannard has ably represented the views of our supporters. He's done a great job and we'll be the first to tell you it ain't over yet!

VCAN needs to raise Bob's salary one more time! We have a few large donors and many small donors. We have had house parties, potluck dinners, picnics, tag sales, and musical benefits. Last year we decided to hold a raffle with the prize being a home solar electric panel system. It was a success. We netted enough to cover two months of Bob and a lucky supporter won a \$5000 grid-tied photovoltaic system. As a result of last year's success VCAN is currently raffling another PV system valued at \$5000.

We are only selling 500 tickets and hope to cover a nice chunk of our lobbying bill for the all-important 2011 legislative battle. This is a great way to support the critical work of VCAN. To buy tickets please go to www.vtcitizen.org or call 802-767-9131 or 413-625-6177.

We Couldn't Do It Without Your Help!

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

Block Foundation • Lintilhac Foundation

Ruth Brown Foundation • Van Itallie Foundation

Lisa Clark & Paul Burton for graphic design and layout and the generous counsel of Charlene Divoky.



Meeting with the Russians

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closures was short lived as decommissioning issues warranted continued attention. It became clear that these once pristine sites were vastly contaminated with chemically toxic and radioactive materials in the soil and groundwater. And unconscionably, cleaning up our community inevitably meant more sacrifice since decommissioning involved the dismantlement of highly radioactive components that were shipped to other communities for “disposal.” The communities chosen for “disposal” were routinely poor, rural people of color and Native American communities. We came to understand the environmental racism that is inherent in the nuclear fuel chain.

As the costs of decommissioning rose astronomically, the colossal failure of nuclear power became undeniable. It became clear that many reactors were systemically mismanaged, and regulators consistently raised the bar on what constituted a “bad job” of running a nuke. What was described as systemic mismanagement in

1993 is just standard industry practice today.

Since there was no satisfaction to be obtained from the federal government, rather than continue battling nuclear power issues with our opponents—both regulators and nuclear corporations, Deb Katz explained that CAN shifted its organizing focus to the Vermont regulators and citizens in the tri-state community. CAN believes that ordinary people and their elected officials have the authority and the responsibility to decide how energy is generated. We’re fighting to transform the future for Vermont and New England.

When asked by the group what tactics seemed most effective in organizing and shutting reactors, Deb answered, “being adaptable.” Effective organizing requires a willingness to relinquish what you’re good at when it is no longer working and to develop new skills and implement untried strategies to change the way the problem as well as the solution is perceived.

- Rosemary Bassilakis - CT CAN



Photos by Gennedy Shabbin, St. Petersburg, Russia.

V-CAN Organizing to Shut Down Vt Yankee

The Vermont Citizens Action Network is gearing up for the 2011 session of the Vermont General Assembly. The future of Entergy Vermont Yankee will once again be the major debate in Montpelier. Our organizing and actions over the next eight months will be crucial in the fight to close the plant on schedule in 2012 and to begin the process of cleaning up the radioactive legacy of the reactor.

Many Vermonters believe the fight to close Entergy Vermont Yankee is a done deal. After all, the company lied to state regulators about leaking radioactive underground pipes. A long list of accidents, mishaps, and questionable employee behavior still remains in the memories of people across the state. Last February the Vermont State Senate voted 26-4 not to allow the Public Service Board to issue a Certificate of Public Good to Entergy for continued operation past the expiration of its initial 40 year license. So the plant will close on schedule and thus will begin the billion dollar plus process of attempting to take the plant apart and return the site to a useable “Greenfield.”

It’s a done deal right?

Not so fast. Entergy and a list of corporate allies are far from giving up. The 2011 Vermont General Assembly will be inundated with Entergy lobbyists from far and wide. All favors will be called in. Over and over Entergy will tell us the lie that “economic gloom and doom will be upon us should the plant close. Employers will leave the State in droves and electric rates will skyrocket.” The media buys will be astounding in size, all touting the safe, clean, and affordable future Entergy Vermont Yankee will deliver. The real battle to close the plant and create an energy future without a radioactive legacy is about to begin.

VCAN will be phone banking, letter writing, door knocking and lobbying. We need folks to help. Entergy has not given up. We need to redouble our efforts and deny Vermont Yankee another 20 years.

To help out call Chris Williams at 802-767-9131 or email Chris at cevan@sover.net.

VY Protest

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Shut It Down support for the day were Mary-Ann Palmieri of New Salem, Massachusetts, and Deborah Reger of Corinth, Vermont, who designed and made the Shut It Down shirts.

While chained and after spray-painting, the women read aloud a statement they left with Entergy officials. The text of the statement follows:

“We are here again, The Shut It Down Affinity Group, because we feel an urgency to act responsibly while Vermont Yankee continues to operate.

“Many times in our lives we take responsibility for warning someone when there is danger ahead - a child about to touch fire, a friend about to enter an unsafe space.

“We now feel it is urgent to bring attention to the dangerous conduct of those most responsible for managing, overseeing, and informing the public about Vermont Yankee’s operation.

“It is irresponsible of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to allow the continued operation of Vermont Yankee while for a year now radioactive tritium continues to leak at the site.

“It is irresponsible of the NRC to continue to allow the operation of Vermont Yankee while radioactive cobalt-60, cesium-137, and strontium-90 are also leaking at the plant site.

“It is irresponsible of the NRC to use misleading words, such as ‘non-relevant’ or ‘unusual event’ when reporting incidents such as an additional crack in the plant’s steam dryer, or an electrical outage in the emergency warning system.

“It is irresponsible of the NRC to do nothing when a nuclear facility has put aside less than half of the necessary funds for decommissioning and clean up the plant.

“It is irresponsible of Entergy, the owners of Vermont Yankee, to not provide timely and accurate information to the Vermont Public Service Board, especially when the information involves the contamination of the land around the plant.

“It is irresponsible of Entergy to bring up a legal issue, such as preemption that was settled a long time ago, instead of moving on to the Public Service Board’s investigation of the tritium leaks.



A Vernon police officer cutting the padlock and chain from Martha Hennessey of Weathersfield, Vermont under the eye of Paki Wieland of Northampton, Massachusetts. Photos by Hattie Nestel.



Spray painters, from left, Nina Swaim of Sharon, Vermont, Frances Crowe and Paki Wieland of Northampton, Mass., as they finish spray-painting “Shut It Down” in the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant driveway in Vernon, Vermont.

“It is irresponsible of Entergy to publicly state that the decommissioning trust fund for Vermont Yankee is adequate.

“It is irresponsible of Entergy to propose that the plant be put in storage for several decades to build up the insufficient decommissioning trust fund.

“It is irresponsible of Entergy to spend millions of dollars on TV, radio, and newspaper ads that claim Vermont Yankee’s nuclear energy is clean, green and safe, money that should go into the insufficient decommissioning fund.

“It is irresponsible of Entergy to claim that nuclear energy is clean, while at the same time expecting those who live near a decommissioned plant site to wait decades for the clean up and for the nuclear waste to be taken away.

“It is irresponsible of Entergy to claim that nuclear energy is green—a low carbon emitter, while leaving out the emission of carbon that occurs during exploration, mining, transportation, processing, enrichment of uranium, and clean up and transportation of nuclear waste away from a plant site.

“It is irresponsible of Entergy to claim that nuclear energy is safe. Such a claim leaves out the history of Chernobyl, Three Mile Island, and the hundreds of “incidents” at nuclear plants that have not been reported. It also omits the fact of routine emissions of radionuclides into the air, water and ground from any operating nuclear power plant and the research in the U.S and abroad that links nuclear power plant locations with the rise in cancer rates,

“It is irresponsible of both the NRC and Entergy for inadequate inspection of the underground pipes and cables before they reached their present dangerous condition of deterioration and water logging.

“We are here because we feel a special responsibility to speak truth to power, for the sake of our loved ones, for our friends, for our communities and for future generations. Our presence here today is also a reminder that danger exists in our midst with the continued operation of Vermont Yankee.

“We are here today because this is our court date. Even though the charges were dropped, we are compelled to say what we would have said in court.

“Shut It Down Now!”

SOLAR PANEL RAFFLE



*Together we can
'Pull the Plug' on Vermont Yankee
and build a renewable energy future!*

Win a Solar Panel system retailing for \$5,000.

Tickets are limited. Only 500 will be sold!

\$30/ticket

Purchase tickets at: 802.767.9131 or 413.625.6177
or go to: www.vtcitizen.org

*To support the Vermont Citizens Action Network and efforts
to close and replace Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee*