

Press Alert

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"Our River Runs Through It" Flotilla September 8, 2012

WHAT: There will be a creative "flotilla" navigated by citizens in watercraft and along the shore to protest the thermal polluting of the Connecticut River by Entergy, owner of Vermont Yankee nuclear reactor. Citizens will make clear that they want this rogue corporation to stop using the river to cool its aging reactor.

WHEN: Saturday September 8 (rain date Saturday September 15)

11:00 am - Noon: Boats arrive and launch

12:30 pm Land Rally

1:00 pm Convergence on the water. *Please launch early enough to join us by 1pm*

WHERE: Main launch area: **Prospect Street Boat Launch in Hinsdale, NH:**

Land Rally: Fort Hill Rail Trail near the Prospect St. Boat Launch

Area map: <http://goo.gl/maps/4CJpA>

WHO: SAGE Alliance

What : A *flotilla* of watercraft from kayaks to motorboats will launch the Connecticut River, just east of Vermont Yankee.

Land supporters will gather at two shady rock outcroppings on the Fort Hill Rail Trail, a 10 to 15 minute walk from the boat launch on Prospect St. From these points, supporters will look out over the flotilla, directly across from Vermont Yankee, and be able to hear speakers and music. Bring your binoculars, signs and banners!

There will be speakers on the water

- David Deen, Connecticut River Steward, Connecticut River Watershed Council and Vermont legislator.
- Christian Parenti, acclaimed writer for The Nation
- Deb Katz, Executive Director of Citizens Awareness Network (CAN), a member of SAGE Alliance.

There will be music from Tom Neilson, Molly Scott, and One Journey

There will be a symbolic "ice drop" to cool the river, highlighting the thermal pollution by VT Yankee and its effect on the river ecology.

BACKGROUND: Entergy Corporation's Vermont Yankee Nuclear Reactor dumps millions of gallons of heated water, some of it at 105 degrees, into the Connecticut River on a daily basis. Fish like the Atlantic salmon and American shad are very vulnerable to warmed habitats; in Vernon, VT, where the reactor discharges, shad have decreased by 99% since the 1990's. The effects of this heated plume extend up to 55 miles downriver to Holyoke MA. There is no reason for Entergy to use our waterways to cool Vermont Yankee. Thermal pollution could be avoided if Entergy exclusively used VT Yankee's cooling towers instead of the river for cooling. Entergy has repeatedly used its cooling towers this summer because of high water temperatures and low water levels.

There will be pontoon boats leaving from the Brattleboro Marina at 11:30 for speakers, press and musicians.

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