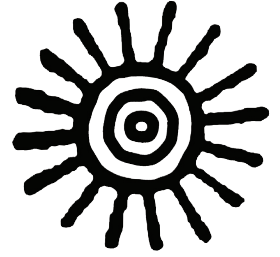


# The CAN-Did Press



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

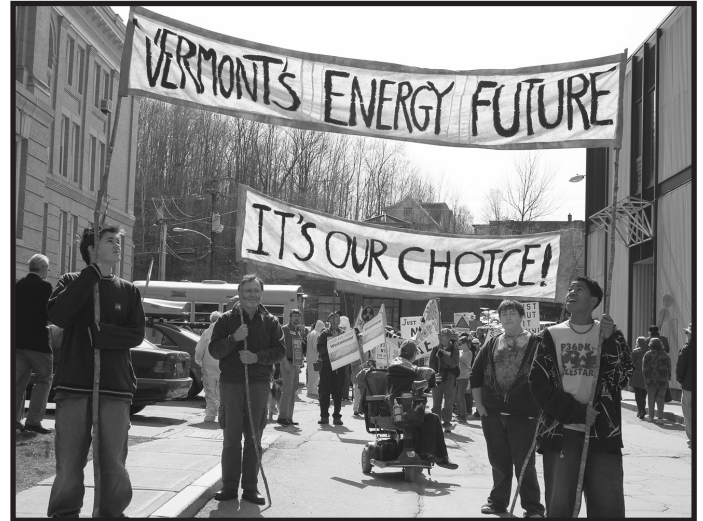
## Vermont at the Crossroads

Vermont is at a crossroads. We can be leaders and innovators—or not. We have the opportunity to lead the way and set the tone for clean, safe energy for generations to come, or we can let Gov. Douglas and his Dep’t of Public Service just do the same old same old and let our kids, grandchildren and their grandchildren deal with the consequences. For those who hold Vermont’s best interests at heart, the decision will be clear. This is a time when we all need to be involved.

There has been a litany of letters to the editor as well as articles in papers describing the grim consequences from passage of the decommissioning bill holding Entergy accountable for cleanup of VY. These claims are the same as the arguments used against replacing Vermont Yankee; they are alarmist and irrational, meant to create fear and insecurity. The mantra is that making Entergy accountable would lead to Vermont Yankee’s shutdown, result in increased coal use, much higher electric rates, and sizable job losses.

The idea that it is either Vermont Yankee or coal is illogical; rates will remain the same until 2012 under the present contract. By Entergy’s own statement, Vermonters will pay market rates after that! They also claim that the legislators are breaking the deal made when Entergy bought the plant in ‘02. In fact it is Entergy that is breaking the deal. At the time of the sale, it committed to a fully funded decommissioning fund and site cleanup by 2022. What happened to that deal?

And yes, we can replace Vermont Yankee. All we need do is replace 270 MW through a diverse energy package. In fact, President



*“It’s Our Choice” rally in Montpelier, VT. Photos by Eesha Williams.*

Obama’s stimulus package can help do just that. A 2007 DPS study found that efficiency could reduce 250 MW of power consumption by 2015, adding jobs while reducing power consumption- and all we need do is add biomass, wind, solar, methane and small hydro to complete the mix. VY is already being replaced- Burlington airport is installing the largest solar array in Vermont, supplying 50 percent of all electricity used at the airport. Brattleboro Union High School, Brattleboro Area Middle School and the Windham Regional Career Center will replace lighting. Winstanley Enterprises intends to build

*Continued on page 4*

## Letters from the Sacrifice Zone

For the past several months, the Safe & Green Campaign has been organizing town-based “LTE” (Letters To the Editor) house parties in towns in Vermont and Massachusetts that lie within 20 miles of the Vernon, VT reactor. This area around any nuclear reactor is

commonly called the “sacrifice zone,” for reasons obvious to anyone familiar with the daily harm caused by reactors’ “low-level” radioactive



emissions—not to mention the catastrophic harm that would result from a major accident.

To date, approximately 150 LTE’s have been generated from LTE parties in 15 towns. Each letter is sent to a VT newspaper, with a copy sent to the VT legislator whose district coincides with that paper’s coverage area. These often very personal letters tell what it is like to live close to Vermont Yankee and to have to worry about whether, or when, the never-ending series of “minor” accidents and breakdowns at the reactor will be followed by, or actually cause, a major one.

It’s hard to track how many of these letters have been published, but we know that quite a few have been—and that they’ve generated positive reactions. We’ve even had a few appreciative responses from the legislators receiving copies. We’re also finding that the process of people getting together and writing these letters provides an empowering experience that deepens their commitment to stick with it until Vermont Yankee is closed.

- Randy Kehler, Co-Coordinator, Safe & Green Campaign



# Update from Bob Stannard *Lobbyist for the people*

*February/March 2009*

Once the legislative session got underway and we got past the "pomp and circumstance" of January, things began to move right along.

The legislature was deservedly upset at learning that the reactor's decommissioning fund lost nearly an additional \$100

mil since last year. You may recall that last year the legislature voted on a decommissioning bill because they felt that the fund was underfunded. Losing \$100 mil did little to reassure them. Gov. Douglas vetoed that bill.

Last year the House Natural Resources Committee, chaired by Rep. Robert Dostis, was not as supportive of our position as we had hoped. Well, Dostis has left the legislature and he's gone to work for Green Mt. Power. This explains his reluctance to support us last year.

Fortunately, this year Rep. Tony Klein (D-E, Montpelier) took over this committee and, suffice it to say, it is a very different committee. Almost immediately Rep. Klein announced that the committee would be taking up a decommissioning bill. True to his word he was able to get a bill out- H.436, which holds Entergy accountable should the plant either close immediately or not receive a Certificate of Public Good to continue to operate in Vermont past 2012.

In brief, the bill requires Entergy to make four equal payments of \$114 million each beginning in 2011 and 2012. Then, two remaining payments in 2018 and 2020. This ensures that the plant will be adequately decommissioned in ten years from closing in 2012, as opposed to Vermont Yankee sitting in SAFSTOR for 60 years to allow for adequate cleanup funds.

To say that Entergy does not like this bill is an understatement. The day before the bill passed, Jay Thayer, V.P. of ENVY (Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee), told the committee that his company would sue to keep this legislation from being enacted! So much for working cooperatively with the State of Vermont.

The bill passed the House the last week of March with a vote of 93 to 47. This is a larger margin than the vote of last year, but seven shy of the 100 votes necessary to override a gubernatorial veto, should one be forthcoming. The governor did veto last year's bill, but this year the decommissioning fund is down an additional \$100 million and most Vermonters agree that Entergy should be held responsible for prompt cleanup. This was born out with the positive vote on Town Meeting day throughout the state.

H. 436 now goes to the Senate where Senate Finance will take the bill up beginning with testimony from Jay Thayer on April 2. Hearings will continue the following week.

The argument from the other side is predominantly focusing on the "breaking of a deal". They contend that when Entergy purchased the plant it did so with various understandings and conditions, not the least of which were that they would not have to contribute to the decommissioning fund.

Times (and rules) have changed. The NRC is now permitting

SAFSTOR for up to 60 years. Conveniently enough, Thayer testified that Entergy would abide by the NRC rules. When Entergy bought the plant it agreed to a M.O.U. (memorandum of understanding) which anticipates that the plant would close in 2012 and be fully decommissioned by 2022. Entergy is the one who wants to change the agreement to allow the plant to operate nearly in perpetuity.

This is not to say that the other side has not been persuasive in making their case. They have, which is why we do not yet have a veto-proof majority. We are working on turning those members who were not with us to be with us should there be a veto. This is incredibly hard work - getting members to change their minds after a vote- but it's not impossible.

The premise of shutting down a nuclear power plant is, in and of itself, an extraordinarily difficult task, but as is evident from the past year, we are remarkably successful in our efforts. It is fully expected that the full Senate will vote on this bill and then it would go back to House. If the Senate changes the bill then a committee of conference will be created to work out the differences.

In March, the much awaited Oversight Panel Report was released and the principals appeared before a joint hearing of the House & Senate Natural Resources and Senate Finance Committees. Unfortunately, the report was not as helpful to our cause as we had hoped. It did point some major deficiencies in management, but that's not enough to cause the plant to close.

In addition, in February both the Speaker of the House, Shap Smith, and the President of the Senate, Peter Shumlin issued a joint ultimatum letter to ENVY stating that if a Power Purchase Agreement was not forthcoming no later than February 18 that the legislature would not be able to vote on the issuance of a Certificate of Public Good until next year. Fortunately, ENVY ignored the letter. This will now allow all of the ground forces to come together and organize over the summer. As of this writing we are still waiting for the Power Purchase Agreement.

*Respectfully submitted,*

Bob Stannard, Citizen's Lobbyist for VCAN

(VT Citizen Action Network), *bob@bobstannard.com*

## ***VCAN Phone Banking: Keeping Vermonters Informed***

The 2009 Vermont legislative session has kept us all on our toes to say the least. From a decommissioning bill to fenceline radiation dose regulations, there has been a great deal for Vermonters to follow. As part of VCAN's advocacy and outreach efforts, groups and individuals have lead regular phone banking activities contacting the nearly 1000 VCAN supporters and providing valuable legislative and campaign information. Students at Brattleboro's SIT Graduate Institute have undertaken regular phone banking activities on campus throughout the spring semester providing timely legislative updates. Groups throughout southern Vermont and western Massachusetts have also participated in the phone banking actions. Calls to supporters will continue throughout the remainder of the session with the intent of orchestrating a wave of calls to the statehouse leading to the shutdown of VY.

*- Chad Simmons, VT CAN*





## Vermont at Crossroads

*Continued from page 1*

a 25-megawatt wood-fired power plant in North Springfield. The Vermont Public Service Board approved the Deerfield Wind Project, an extension of the current Searsburg Wind Facility, the first step in a lengthy approval process that includes approval by the U.S. Forest Service.

Entergy is not offering any deal that benefits Vermonters. Over time, the relationship with Vermont Yankee will cost more than other alternative, sustainable resources. Entergy Vice President Jay Thayer made it clear that electric rates will rise and that Vermonters will join the rest of New Englanders with wholesale rates as high as 8-9 cents kWh. If we replace Vermont Yankee with efficiency and in-state renewable energy, we can actually provide lower electric rates than Vermont Yankee after 2012. Efficiency is the cheapest source of “power” available at 2-3 cents per kWh. Even VY’s current cheap rates are roughly 50 percent higher than efficiency, and by 2012 those rates will be gone forever. The Department of Public Service estimates one renewable portfolio alternative at 7.1 cents and market rates at 8.7 cents in 2012 and rising thereafter.

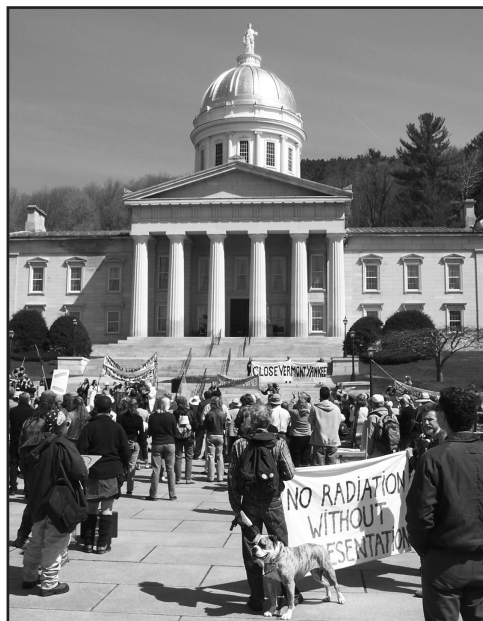
Entergy employs 218 people living in Vermont. The number of good jobs that could be generated through efficiency and the creation of other power plants would supersede what Entergy contributes to the state. For example, jobs that would be created by biomass equal 4-5 jobs per MW. Energy Efficiency Vermont currently employs 150 people, and would need more if their programs were to expand. Additionally, closure can lead to continued employment for Yankee workers who can engage in the cleanup of the contaminated site for 15 years or longer. Even employing rapid dismantlement, 25 percent to 50 percent of workers were retained in the clean up of Yankee Rowe and CT Yankee. With a commitment to renewables, conservation, and efficiency, Vermont could become a leader in job creation based on alternative energy.

And claims that ratepayers can’t be held liable for decommissioning costs is untrue. Although federal law mandates that

corporations pay decommissioning costs, both Yankee Rowe and Connecticut Yankee reactors severely underestimated their skyrocketing decommissioning costs under NRC’s watchful eye and ratepayers had to cover the costs—\$750 million for Rowe and \$1.2 billion for CT Yankee. The VT House of Representatives is being prudent and farsighted by requiring a fully funded decommissioning fund now.

We need your help now like never before. We can change the course of history in Vermont. It will take all of us doing what we can. We ask you to give generously and to join us.

Act Today To Change Tomorrow  
- Deb Katz-Exec Director, CAN



# VT ACTION

Four activists were arrested on March 30, 2009 in Brattleboro for holding signs during a speech by Vermont Governor Jim Douglas and U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy about the federal economic stimulus program. The signs said, "Veto Nuclear Jim in Nov. 2010." Douglas is up for re-election next year.

The protesters are all in their 30s and all live near Vermont Yankee (VY) nuclear power plant in Vernon, Vermont. VY is three miles from Massachusetts and a stone's throw from New Hampshire. The arrested protesters were Jonathan Crowell of Newfane; Amy Frost of Guilford; and Eesha Williams and Elizabeth Wood of Dummerston. Wood, Crowell, and Frost are all farmers. Crowell won a financial settlement from the Brattleboro police department after they used Tasers on him at a non-violent protest to protect farmland from development.

The four activists released the following statement:

"We respectfully call on Sen. Leahy and Gov. Douglas to use the taxpayer funded federal stimulus money to close Vermont Yankee (VY) nuclear power plant and replace its power with energy efficiency programs and renewable energy. We also stand in solidarity with the movements for marriage equality, democracy (campaign finance reform), and universal health care, all of which Jim Douglas has vetoed or said he will veto."

On Friday, the Vermont House passed a bill that would require VY's owner to strengthen the fund set aside for dismantling the reactor when it stops operating. The bill would require Vermont Yankee owner Entergy Corp. of Louisiana to pay more than \$350 million into the decommissioning fund during the next decade. The fund is now worth about \$300 million. The cost of clean up is estimated to be more than \$1 billion. The Senate is expected to pass the bill. Douglas says he will veto it.

The nuclear waste generated by VY is so deadly that it must be guarded around the clock for the next 1 million years, according to the National Academies of Science. An accident or act of sabotage at Yankee could kill thousands of people.

If New Englanders took the money they now pay Entergy Corp. of Louisiana for electricity from VY and instead spent it



on energy efficiency programs, VY could be closed, consumers' electricity bills would go down, and there would be a net increase in jobs. That's according to a study by Amory Lovins, published in the journal Nuclear Engineering International.

The Vermont Legislature will decide whether to allow VY to continue operating after 2012. Vermonters-please contact your legislators and ask them to vote to close VY, and make a donation and/or volunteer for [www.vtcitizen.org](http://www.vtcitizen.org) or [www.vpirg.org](http://www.vpirg.org)

- Eesha Williams

## Field Organizing Continues in Vermont

The Vermont Legislature ends its 2009 session without a vote on the continued operation of Vermont Yankee past 2012. Meanwhile the plant routinely springs leaks, accumulates an ever increasing backlog of expensive maintenance tasks, while its decommissioning fund decreases in value; And Entergy's refuses to provide Green Mountain Power and Central Vermont Power Service with a price for power beyond 2012.

Against this backdrop the Vermont Citizens Action Network is gearing up field organizing efforts across the state. For the next eight months volunteers will go door to door in communities throughout Vermont gathering support from citizens who want the plant shuttered by 2012, cleaned up, and replaced with sustainable, Vermont scaled power generation.

We have a growing database of Vermonters who are willing to contact their elected officials and tell them the right thing to do is to vote to cease Vermont Yankee operation in 2012. To win in 2010; we will need many more before the next legislative session.

We need volunteers to help. Most door knocking takes place on Saturdays, and we will happily train all comers. Call Chris Williams at 802-767-9131 or Deb Katz 413 339 5781 for more information.

- Chris Williams, VCAN



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# News from New York State

## WEST-CAN

### Indian Point Up Date

The major players in the re-licensing of Indian Point (30 miles N of NYC on the Hudson River) remain the Atomic Safety Licensing Board and the so called Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The meeting for the draft Environmental Impact Study is over and the final hearing will be held sometime next spring in 2010. These meetings are strictly pro forma. NRC reps sit behind their table, listen politely to whoever is at the microphone, turn the lights off at 9:00pm and move on with their job of keeping Indian Point running. NY is the first state to come out against re-licensing a nuclear power plant from the Governor down and even state officials express dismay about the process and working with the NRC.

Re-licensing is a highly technical, legal procedure. Papers are exchanged almost daily between Entergy, the Attorney General Office and those who have standing contentions. Once contentions, or legal reasons to stop re-licensing, are submitted Entergy is allowed to amend their defense to meet those objections. It then becomes necessary to amend the submitted contentions. It is apparent to all that NRC lawyers are firmly in the pocket of Entergy. WestCAN contentions were all thrown out on various technicalities, including filing several minutes late because the NRC server would not accept our documents. CAN member Susan Shapiro continues to work tirelessly with Assemblyman Richard Brodski. They have filed an Amicus brief in the Second Circuit Court of Appeals dealing with exemptions to fire safety regulations.

Rulings from the ASLB have been erratic. Riverkeeper asked for documentation about the layout of underground piping. Entergy's position was that since they had agreed to testing they should not have to produce the documentation since it was now a matter of managing aging equipment and it was much too onerous and expensive to provide the schematics. NRC lawyers agreed. The Board ruled that the expense to the company has nothing to do with the validity of complying with the process. The company had to produce a 600 pg list. The documents will all have to be examined and that is a major job. When it came to damage to the fish population, the ASLB board claimed that the fish kill was not their concern.

Clearwater has filed one contention on social justice relating to the impact of evacuation on the inmates of Sing Sing who are disproportionately men of color. This is particularly interesting since emergency evacuation is not allowed within the narrow scope of re-licensing. They are filing a second contention as the Village of Haverstraw just announced plans for a desalinisation plant so that they can use the Hudson River as a source of drinking water. Indian Point legally discharges tritiated water into the River. There are also leaks to groundwater that cannot be measured. The NRC position is that dilution is the solution to pollution and that radionuclides ranging from tritium to strontium 90 in drinking water is no big deal.

Also in play is a rulemaking decision on the part of NRC—the Waste Confidence Issue. NRC has full faith and confidence that the company will properly hold high level radioactive waste safely so no review is necessary. The AG has shown that there is not enough money in the decommissioning fund for clean up, now or at the end of a re-licensing period. The state wants to front load these funds to make sure that they are fully funded at the end. It is only

prudent. Local towns and villages like Buchanan, the County of Westchester and the State of New York are on the hook if the fund is inadequate. Entergy, on the other hand, is working very hard to decrease their liability by setting up another limited liability corporation called Enexus. This spin-off company will have few assets and little capitol.

The narrow scope of re-licensing is a national problem and it is clear that we need legislation from Congress redefining what must be considered during this process. In the meantime WestCAN continues on in concert with IPSEC and all the others battling against Entergy's huge public relations budget and their newly hired lobbying firm. Look for us at the Great Hudson River Revival in June and all the other forums we can find to talk with people and invite them to write letters and sign our new petition to President Obama.

-Marilyn Elie, Westchester Citizens Awareness Network

## Central New York (CNY)

The Central New York (CNY) chapter is organizing to stop a French-American consortium from building the first new nuclear reactor in the northeast in over twenty years. We have started to build a coalition with other statewide and local environmental groups to head off the project. We have also started meeting with legislators to educate them about the issues.

Constellation Energy operates three reactors in CNY – two at Nine Mile Point in Oswego County and the Ginna reactor in Wayne County near Rochester. In partnership with France's government-owned nuclear utility, Electricite de France (EdF), Constellation submitted several applications for new reactors to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission last year. However, the companies put their application for the CNY reactor on hold in March, after Congress refused to include \$50 billion for loan guarantees for nuclear projects in the stimulus bill. The nuclear industry is persistent though, and continues lobbying Congress for the money. The one upside to deregulation in the northeast is that no new nukes will be built without guaranteed, up-front federal bailouts – which is what these loan guarantees boil down to.

In April, we got another bit of good news that set UniStar's plans back even further. A Canadian group that has been attempting to build a large powerline from CNY to downstate NY canceled that project. Existing powerlines cannot transmit any more electricity from CNY to the NYC area, so without the new powerline, Constellation will have a harder time justifying building a huge new reactor.

Our chapter has also been pushing forward our proposal for the City of Syracuse to form its own power company and invest in renewable energy. With our partners in the CNY Public Power Coalition, we held a forum for mayoral candidates in Syracuse to discuss their position on public power. Over 70 people attended, and the event put public power on the map as a central issue in this year's election. The consultant the city hired to study the issue should be issuing a report later this spring. We have continued meeting with City Hall officials to monitor progress on the study, as well as meeting with community groups and making presentations.

- Tim Judson, CNY CAN [cancny@nukebusters.org](mailto:cancny@nukebusters.org)



## Solar Rollers Tour of Vermont August 2009

Looking for bicycles and riders for the 31st Anniversary Bike Tour of The Solar Rollers! We are going to ride in Vermont along the Connecticut River Valley by bicycle this August to spread the word that We CAN Replace the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Reactor with Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency and Conservation.

Last year we had 50 riders for the first day in Brattleboro, VT. Then up to 12 riders for the total 14 day ride. Please consider riding with us for a day or more! If you are interested in riding or hosting an evening presentation or overnight stay for riders, please contact Claire Chang by calling 413-626-3620 or email [cchang@nukebusters.org](mailto:cchang@nukebusters.org).

- Claire Chang, MACAN

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

We want to thank all of our donors, our supporters and volunteers who make our work possible. We also thank the foundations that support our efforts:  
*Ben & Jerry's Foundation • Block Foundation  
Peace Development Fund • Van Itallie Foundation  
Ruth Brown Foundation • Lintilhac Foundation*

### 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)

## August 2009 is a Nuclear Free Future Month

Citizens Awareness Network joined this nationwide initiative to link campaigns against nuclear power and nuclear weapons.

The initiative encourages local groups to engage in education, video screenings, art exhibits, protests, vigils and more to raise public awareness, create political will and build stronger ties between the nuclear abolition, antiwar, and climate justice movements.

Hosted by the American Friends Service Committee office in Florence, MA, sponsors plan to put posters in shop windows, show films about nuclear weapons and/or nuclear power, ask our town officials to designate communities as Nuclear Free Future areas. We will extend invitations to our state and national politicians for their participation during this month-long campaign. The Peace Pagoda will lead a walk through Western Mass.

Regionally we will collaborate on a petition directed to Governor Deval Patrick, asking him to meet with us to hear our concerns and to act to shut down Vermont Yankee and Pilgrim nuclear power plants for the safety and well-being of the citizens of the Commonwealth.

We are still exploring other initiatives. All who care to participate are welcome.

Regional sponsors include United for Peace and Justice, American Friends Service Committee, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, Nevada Desert Experience, Nuclear Age Peace foundation, Peace Action Education fund, Western States Legal Foundation, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom among other groups.

Local groups include: Traprock Peace Center, W. Ma. AFSC, CAN, and Arise.

For further information contact Hattie Nestel 978-249-9400 or Jeff at AFSC, 413-584-8975



"It's Our Choice" rally in Montpelier, VT. Photos by Eesha Williams.