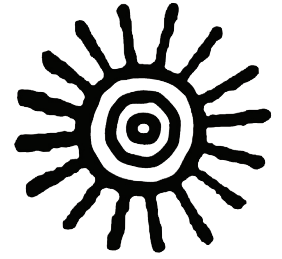


The CAN-Did Press



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

Acts of Conscience: Four Grannies in Birkenstocks "Attack" Vermont Yankee



Mid-afternoon on September 28, 2009, four women walked right through the two open "security" gates and onto the grounds of Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant in Vernon, Vermont.

After walking through the gates, while the security guards scrambled to shut the broken steel gates, the grannies aggressively opened their folding chairs and sat facing the main road with signs demanding the plant be shut down.

Frances Crowe, Ellen Graves, Hattie Nestel and I, Paki Wieland, are part of the "Shut it Down" Affinity Group. We have protested this plant before, through actions ranging from effigies, chaining ourselves to the posts to close the access road into the plant, to this sitting in at the plant. This latest action was purposely done to demonstrate the lack of security at the plant. And it was apparent to all present that the plant is not secure from strangers getting into the plant.

Nuclear plant security is a flawed concept to begin with. The plants leak toxic radiation into the air and water, even when there are no safety violations. And, if and when an accident occurs, or a fire, or routine machinery malfunctions, those radiation levels rise!

On September 28, we chose to focus attention on what could happen if people with ill intent were to "attack" the reactor. To our dismay, and more so to the security of Entergy's Vermont Yankee, the gates were not secured and we got in. If we were able to get onto the grounds, four grannies fueled by conscience, who else might do the same someday.

We were arrested, and once again the State of Vermont refused to prosecute us. Perhaps the Entergy corporation and the NRC should give us an award for showing them the failure of their "security" system. Safety consultants would have cost them a lot more.

The bottom line is, this plant is not secure. You and your family and your community are not secure! Think about that!

- Paki Wieland, paki43@gmail.com

Meltdown: Voices From Chernobyl

Five Western Massachusetts communities collaborated during the Nuclear Free Future month of August by presenting *Meltdown: Voices from Chernobyl*.

The play was adapted by Spencer Smith from the book *Voices from Chernobyl* by Svetlana Alexievich, and is a true history told by those that were affected by the 1986 explosion and meltdown at the Chernobyl nuclear power reactor in the Ukraine, USSR.

Shelburne Falls, Greenfield, Northampton, New Salem and Springfield brought together actors from their local communities to share this powerful and emotional seven-person play.

continued on page 6



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

 **CITIZENS AWARENESS NETWORK**
 www.nukebusters.org • (413) 339-5781 (802) 767-9131

We CAN Do Better!

It's getting close. The beginning of the legislative session is less than 30 days away. I know we said this last year—that this was the year. Some of you may think that like last year, Vermont Yankee's fate will be tabled for another year. Of course I can't guarantee that the legislature will act. Just like I can't guarantee that we will win. The truth is if we don't do all we can, if we don't educate every Vermonter we can, if we don't activate every Vermonter we can, then we won't prevail. We won't make our vision for a sustainable energy future a reality. This would be tragic.

I am here to recruit you! I urge you to become involved—involved like you never have before. It will take all of us helping in whatever way we can. Please contact CAN to find out how you can help— we need people willing to make phone calls, knock on doors, letter writing, help with our website, and much more. We have a once in a lifetime opportunity to limit corporate control, create local jobs, energy independence and prosperity. What it will take is for democracy to work. The will of the people is stronger than the Douglas administration and its minions—the Departments of Public Service and Health.

As we approach the end of the year, there is still no power purchase offer on the table from Entergy. Instead of presenting Vermont with a satisfactory agreement, Entergy continues its fear-based PR campaign—fear of skyrocketing energy bills, lost revenues, choosing polluting industries to replace Vermont Yankee, job losses and the decline and fall of just about everything.

Governor Douglas says what Vermont Yankee rates will be don't matter—that the legislature should decide whether to saddle the state with another 20 to 40 years of a decrepit nuke with mounting nuclear waste problems, limited liability corporations, and aged related deterioration without knowing what the price of power will be. Is he kidding?

We've said again and again, there is no good deal from Entergy. We are now paying more for power through our contract with Entergy than we would on the open market. Caused by a cool summer, but primarily by a significant decrease in energy use, the ability to foresee future use is daunting. In December 2008 Entergy acknowledged that Vermonters will pay comparable rates to other New England states; what isn't mentioned is that in all likelihood these states are now questioning whether they want

to continue with Entergy and at what price. Since New England previously subsidized Vermont's low rates, it's unlikely that they'll continue to help the Green Mountain state out. Why should they? For all we know these energy corporations are in the process of negotiating power contracts with Entergy's competitors—choosing renewable energy sources rather than dirty nuclear power.

And Wayne Leonard, head of Entergy's \$7 billion dollar parent corporation, is talking about spinning Entergy's parent company off if Enexus doesn't fly. That would leave Vermont with a shell corporation owner just the same—the same inadequate decommissioning funds, same systemic mismanagement, same inadequate funding.

Of course all the money issues on the minds of legislators and power corporations pale in comparison to the real issues—the state's approval of Entergy moving its fence line closer to the local elementary school—exposing children to higher levels of radiation, the ever increasing storage of high level waste on the banks of the Connecticut River, the state's irresponsible promotion of Entergy, while sabotaging the development of sustainable replacement power over the last 10 years, and the systemic mismanagement of an aging nuke with an expiring license.

Remember act today to change tomorrow!

Join Us!

Deb Katz, Executive Director, Citizens Awareness Network

Calling all Volunteers

CAN and VCAN are looking for a few people to help us keep the information on our website and other communication tools flowing (e-mail newsletters, Facebook, etc...). A high-speed internet connection, such as Cable or DSL and a somewhat recent computer (either Mac or PC) is needed. Previous experience using a content management system, such as Drupal or WebGUI, is preferred but not required. Training will be provided. If you are interested, please contact Chris at (508) 414-0766 or e-mail chrisf@nukebusters.org. If you have previous website experience, please provide the name of the site you worked on.

Solar Rollers '09

Determined to do what they can to bring the word of the dangers of Vermont Yankee directly to the people all across the state of Vermont, the Solar Rollers were back on the highways and byways pedaling pamphlets opposing the relicensing of the aging nuke, and speaking to groups and local media for two weeks this August. By the end of the tour, the Rollers had given out 14,000 informational flyers and talked to hundreds and hundreds of people, the great majority of whom oppose Vermont Yankee and want it shut down. That is the word on the street, whether the street is in sight of Canada or in sight of Entergy headquarters.

The Solar Rollers, a grass roots bicycling group founded in 1978 to travel from Western Massachusetts to the occupation of the Seabrook, NH, nuclear plant site, has maintained an active level of anti-nuclear bicycle campaigning in the decades since, including three rides in the past three summers around Vermont.

Totaling up the leaflets distributed in the past three years alone, the Solar Rollers have left information flyers about the dangers of Vermont Yankee on the doorsteps of one percent of Vermont's population! Not bad for a group of people who are ready to join AARP.

This year, the Rollers included three 15-year old boys, who added a great deal of energy to the tour as they gracefully cycled back and forth the busy roads, without using appropriate hand



Although different bikers join in for different parts of the tour, this is the group that headed out of West Wheelock one August morning. The riders are John Ward, Gill, MA; Abel Phillips, Northfield, MA; Noah Koester, Northfield, MA; David Detmold, Montague, MA; and Evan Scheltema, Montague, MA.

signals or any common sense, to deliver the word on VY to farms and homes from Greensboro to Newport to St. Albans and Burlington—and beyond. We were glad to get them safely home to their mothers, realizing that a new generation of anti-nuclear activists have been born!

- David Detmold, reporter@montaguema.net

LEST WE FORGET...

The following is excerpted from a Sept. 2009 op-ed written by Randy Kehler and Deborah Katz that appeared in the Brattleboro Reformer and the Greenfield Recorder.

It's hard to keep track of all the reported accidents, breakdowns, and other mishaps at the Entergy corporation's nearby Vermont Yankee nuclear reactor in Vernon, Vermont. So to refresh our memories, here's an abbreviated summary of some of these "incidents" during the past five years alone (the reactor has been operating for over 37 years, with Entergy as its owner since 2002):

- radioactive fuel rods "lost" for three months (September '04);
- major fire breaks out in transformer area of reactor (June '05);
- cracks discovered in steam dryer, a critical reactor component (November '05);
- "hot" shipment leaves Vernon four times more radioactive than allowable federal limits (August '06);
- cooling tower collapses (August '07);
- malfunctioning crane drops cask of high-level spent fuel four inches onto concrete floor of spent fuel area (May '08);
- cooling tower leaks discovered (July '08); more leaks discovered (September '08);
- excess radiation exposure forces temporary evacuation of 12 workers (August '08) and then 25 workers (October '08);
- new cracks found in reactor's steam dryer (November '08);
- temporary breakdown of emergency phone and radio alert systems (December '08);

- two back-to-back leaks of radioactive water inside the plant, with latter occurring in a "safety-sensitive" area (January '09);
- discovery of radioactive contamination of soil surrounding reactor requiring eventual removal of 135,000 cubic feet (February '09);
- leak reported in condenser that cools steam before returning it to reactor as water (June '09), following similar leak that technicians are unable to find (April '08);
- leak discovered in "service water system" that provides cooling water to key reactor safety component (June '09);
- Acknowledgement by Entergy that it failed to perform required monitoring of radiation from casks of high-level radioactive waste placed on banks of Connecticut River in June 2008 (Aug. '09).
- reduction in power to fix 3,000 gallons/day leak in reactor's feed-water system (August '09).

We don't have to be rocket scientists to understand two basic things going on here. Both are no-brainers. One is that everything tends to break down over time, whether it's our bodies or our machines. This includes nuclear reactors—especially when they near the end of their design life (40 years in the case of Vermont Yankee and most other U.S. nuclear reactors).

The other no-brainer, which we now see more clearly than ever in the wake of our current economic crisis, is that the highest priority of huge, multi-billion-dollar corporations is maximizing their profits, not looking out for the health and well-being of the public or the environment (think AIG, Goldman Sachs, *et. al.*) This is especially true of mega-corporations whose areas of operation are far from corporate headquarters where major decisions are made.

continued on page 6



Update from Bob Stannard

Lobbyist for the people

There continues to be a very powerful, “behind the scenes” movement in play around the struggle over the continued operation of Vermont Yankee. Thanks to the effort of many of you there has been a constant barrage of letters to the editors in Vermont papers. The importance of these letters cannot be over-

stated. It is the growing, vocal public opposition that has worked to tip the scales over these past months. And, it’s working!

I attended a joint hearing of the Senate Finance Committee and the Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee that was called to discuss whether or not the Vernon site is the best site for the long-term storage of high-level nuclear waste.

The committees heard testimony that this site was never adequately analyzed by the Public Service Department and may very well not be the best site; experts recommended that other locations in Vermont should be investigated and seriously considered. As is the case with most nuclear power plants, the VY plant was sited in the place that was most convenient. No one in Vermont ever considered the prospects of housing a high-level nuclear waste dump for 100 years. Entergy is now hoping to shoehorn the waste on this site, but this site is surrounded by water and may be unstable. The hearing resulted in yet another bad news headline for VY.

I had the occasion to meet with President of the Senate, Sen. Peter Shumlin, to discuss his, and Speaker Shap Smith’s intentions regarding the imposed deadline of November 1 for a Purchase Power Agreement. Much of our conversation must remain confidential, but suffice it to say that both the Speaker and the Senate President are unhappy with the lack of progress on an agreement and fully intend to hold Entergy accountable. There is much dissatisfaction from the leadership towards Entergy.

This dissatisfaction is exacerbated by the Department of Public Services’ recent decision to sign off on the creation of Enexus—the shell corporation Entergy is trying to be create for the purpose of pushing six of their aged nuke plants further away from Entergy’s liability. The State Oversight Panel, in its report, said that should Entergy go forward with Enexus it could very well negatively impact the reliability of the VY plant. This decision by the DPS is weighing heavily in the discussions on allowing the plant to continue to operate.

Another development was the release of a report by nuclear engineer Arnie Gunderson in which he states that the 80 areas of concern that were identified by the NSA report from nine months ago have not yet been addressed. VY has only developed plans to address 25 of the 80 issues. They have not actually addressed any of them. Gunderson also chastised VY for not disclosing that there are underground pipes, which have in the past released Cobalt-60 into the Connecticut River. VY testified before the Public Service

Board that there were no underground pipes at this plant. They either didn’t know about them or were lying before the Board.

Neither one is particularly good for Entergy.

Add to these concerns nearly daily reports in the newspapers showing one company after another adding solar panels to their roofs or finding more ways to reduce their energy needs. These efforts, of course, are all helping to drive electricity prices down. Currently we are experiencing a glut of cheap power. This trend is expected to continue—providing yet another strong argument for closing down this antiquated, leaking nuclear plant. Add to this the debacle of the firing range cover-up and VY continues to get more bad press and to worry most Vermonters.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Stannard, Citizen’s Lobbyist for VCAN
(VT Citizen Action Network), bob@bobstannard.com

VCAN: Inch by Inch, Door by Door

Vermont CAN is continuing to organize support for a legislative vote to close Vermont Yankee on time in 2012, clean up the site, and produce affordable power from sustainable sources. In communities across Vermont the support for a new energy path is deep and growing. VCAN volunteers have been knocking on doors and contacting citizens by phone regarding Vermont Yankee’s future.

During the 2009 session of the Vermont General Assembly, legislators passed landmark legislation providing significant incentives for renewable energy development, as well as a bill to fully fund the decommissioning account for Vermont Yankee. The renewable energy legislation became law without the Governor’s signature. The decommissioning bill was vetoed by Governor Douglas for the second year in a row.

The renewable energy law provides for a “feed in tariff” which offers energy developers an attractive rate for building new renewable generation sources. The response to the new incentives has been swift and impressive. As of mid-October 2009, the State of Vermont has received proposals for more than 180 megawatts of new solar photovoltaic generation.

The Vermont legislature has been acting to replace Vermont Yankee with new sustainable energy supplies. The lawmakers have also shown a consistent desire to make sure the plant’s owner cleans up the site when the plant closes.

As 2010 approaches, VCAN will be tirelessly working to show the legislators that a majority of Vermonters support the closure of Vermont Yankee on time in 2012.

- Chris Williams, VCAN, cevan@sover.net

Vermont Citizens Action Network Holding Raffle for \$5,000 Home Solar Panel System

The Vermont Citizens Action Network (VCAN) is holding its “Solar Panel Raffle” from November through January. VCAN will be offering a limited number of tickets for the prize of a home solar panel system retailing for \$5,000. Funds raised through the raffle will support of VCAN’s efforts to close Entergy’s Vermont Yankee nuclear reactor and replace it with efficiency and renewable technologies.

VCAN is committed to achieving a sustainable energy future in Vermont. The “Solar Panel Raffle” continues the work Vermont has already achieved in fostering local, renewable solutions to power our communities.

“The people of Vermont are eager to move beyond the failing, 37-year old Vermont Yankee reactor and the arrogant tactics of the Entergy Corporation,” says Bob Stannard, Citizen lobbyist. “We need not look any further than Entergy’s proposal to spin off into a shell corporation and leave Vermont drowning in debt.”

The past few years have seen numerous mishaps and deteriorating structural conditions at Vermont Yankee. An October quarterly report prepared for the Vermont Joint Fiscal Committee outlined Entergy’s slow progress toward developing action plans to address reliability issues. The report also identified contaminated underground piping seeping radioactive Cobalt-60 into the Connecticut River. Additionally, 2009 saw three separate radioactive leaks at Vermont Yankee.

“VCAN is working for Vermonters to make sure our concerns and vision are being represented,” said Kathleen Kravetski, a nurse from Rutland and a VCAN supporter.

VCAN continues its efforts to support legislation moving Vermont towards local, efficient and renewable solutions and closing Vermont Yankee in March 2012.

During the 2009 legislative session, VCAN and other citizen groups successfully fought for the “Standard Offer” bill that provides small renewable energy projects an incentive to build in Vermont. Also, for the second year in a row, VCAN helped to pass a strong decommissioning bill that would protect Vermont ratepayers from the exorbitant

cost of cleaning up Vermont Yankee after it closes. Governor Jim Douglas again vetoed this bill.

All proceeds from the raffle will go to support VCAN’s 2010 efforts to close Vermont Yankee and pass strong, renewable energy legislation. Only 450 tickets will be sold. They can be purchased online at www.vtcitizen.org, at participating stores in your area, or by contacting Chad Simmons at 802.377.7403. The winner of the raffle will be announced in January.

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 450 will be sold!

\$35/ticket

Purchase tickets at:

or go to: www.vtcitizen.org

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



Four Grannies in Birkenstocks behind the fence at Vermont Yankee Sept. 28, 2009.

Lest We Forget

continued from page 3

Entergy, based in New Orleans, is a prime example. Its record of cost-cutting and deferred maintenance at the expense of safety and reliability, and its recent renegeing on its commitment to the Vermont Public Service Board to fully fund the decommissioning and decontamination of the Vermont Yankee site within 10 years of its scheduled closure in 2012, provide clear evidence of Entergy's irresponsibility.

Should Entergy be allowed to continue operating the Vermont Yankee reactor for another 20 years beyond the March 2012 expiration of its original 40-year license? The answer to that should be a no-brainer, too: NO!

- Randy Kehler, rkehl@crocker.com
- Deb Katz, deb@nukebusters.org

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

The Canvass... THIS is What Democracy Looks Like!

Have you ever considered canvassing as an essential part of replacing Vermont Yankee?

The nature of the Vermont Yankee situation is unique and makes canvassing all the more rewarding. The issue of Vermont Yankee's problems—decommissioning funding, endless mishaps, and constantly rewriting the rules to give VY a pass—are routinely on radio broadcasts, news articles and conversation amongst Vermonters.

As someone who canvasses regularly in Vermont, I can tell you that it is rare that I come across folks at their doorsteps who support the continued operation of Vermont Yankee. Reaching out to Vermonters and organizing them is easy as the people are very informed. People are supportive and happy to know that there is something they can do to change things. When you stop and tell them how uniquely democratic their state is (Vermont is the only one to take back the right to vote on whether or not it is in the public good for a nuclear reactor to continue operation), it makes them proud to be Vermonters. The good people of Vermont know what they want for their state's future—all they need is for you and me to organize their collective voice and make it heard by their legislators.

This is the part where I ask you to join me in organizing Vermont's collective voice. To do the job that's needed, we need more of you to join us to ensure a green future for Vermont. I know so many of you feel as passionately as I do about the importance of decommissioning Vermont Yankee on schedule in 2012.

We need an Army of CAN folks to Rock this Vote by blanketing Vermont and organizing the people. Nobody else can put the formula into action but you and me, baby. So, come on out and let's take a trip to some key legislative districts and get the job done. Together we can create the tipping point we need in order to Decommission VY in 2012!

- Joan Sellers, joanestheragnes@gmail.com

Meltdown: Voices From Chernobyl

continued from page 1

The performance were all produced by the Shantigar Foundation and directed by Ronald Rand from New York City.

Audiences were all quite taken by the reality that what happened at Chernobyl could happen here from an accident at Vermont Yankee—just a short distance from these communities. The discussions that followed the performances were very emotional and heartfelt. I think it's fair to say that we all felt very inspired to take more definitive action to shut down Vermont Yankee and stop national legislation from putting taxpayer money into nuclear power.

Performances are now being planned for Northfield, Wendell and Newton as well as at several local colleges. Anyone interested in creating a performance in their town can contact Hattie Nestel, 978-249-9400, Hattieshalom@verizon.net

- Hattie Nestel

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.

We also thank the foundations that support our efforts: *Ben & Jerry's Foundation • Block Foundation • Solidago Foundation • Peace Development Fund • Van Itallie Foundation • Ruth Brown Foundation • Lintilhac Foundation*