

**For Immediate Release:**

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**MAKING VERMONT YANKEE ACCOUNTABLE**

**WHEN:** January 17<sup>th</sup> 6:00 PM

**WHAT:** Forum with Panel discussion and Q&A to address what will happen when Vermont Yankee shuts in 2012. A three-person panel will talk about transition, clean-up, long-term waste storage and what role citizens can play in the process.

**WHERE:** Montshire Museum of Science, Norwich, VT

**WHO:** Deb Katz, Executive Director of the Citizens Awareness Network;  
Chris Williams, Organizer for Vermont Citizens Action Network  
Robert Stannard, Citizen Lobbyist for the Vermont Citizens Action Network

**BACKGROUND:**

The overwhelming vote in the Senate to reject VY as part of Vermont's energy future and the legislature's refusal to return to the issue in 2011 was a great victory, but the debate continues with Entergy suing the state and continuing its campaign to wear the legislature down to get a deal to continue operation. So citizens must remain engaged and demand continued legislative action to support a successful transition to sustainable energy and stricter decommissioning and operational standards going forward. How Entergy will address the issues of transition, closure, decommissioning is more significant than ever. Recently questions have been raised about how the local community will be affected as well as the state and even the region.

Vermont Yankee's power has already been replaced. But questions remain. Can we survive without Vermont Yankee? Can citizens play a role as Vermont Yankee is properly dismantled, cleaned-up and radioactive waste safely stored? With the slow motion Fukushima disaster highlighting the vulnerabilities of Mark 1 reactors, how will the state deal with the increased vulnerability of this aged reactor?

The Citizens Awareness Network and the Sierra Club are sponsoring a forum to discuss the issues surrounding the decommissioning clean up and accountability of Vermont Yankee. CAN has been intimately involved with closure and decommissioning of reactors in New England. "Nowhere is the colossal failure of nuclear power more evident than in decommissioning with its extensive contamination, ballooning costs, limited oversight, and lack of solutions for its contaminated wastes," said Deb Katz executive director of the CAN "Added to this is the inability to trust a systemically mismanaged corporation."

The choice to hold the forums was based on a lack of relevant information on what decommissioning entails, what choices Entergy is making and what has been the industry standard on decommissioning until now. "The decommissioning of the Entergy Vermont Nuclear Power Plant will be one of the most significant undertakings in Vermont's history," said Bob Stannard lobbyist for Vermont Citizens Action Network. "We will have one, and only one, opportunity to get it right. Through this forum we hope to be able to chart the course of providing citizen participation designed to protect Vermonter's interest as opposed to the interests of Entergy's stockholders."

Reviews

Deb, Chris and Bob - Thank you so much for the outstanding public forum in Middlebury on June 20th.

The approximately 50 citizens who attended found the evening informative and empowering. You were fully prepared, engaged, and responsive to the questions and concerns of the audience. While the topic is clearly serious, there were moments of celebration in recognition of how far the state has come in confronting Entergy, and even moments of good humor. We are extremely glad that this forum took place, and we thank you for your dedication to the cause of a safe and complete decommissioning of Vermont Yankee.

Brennan Michaels and John Beattie  
Organizers of the June 20th gathering in Middlebury

Friends: This panel of people is dynamite! We learned tremendous amounts and were completely inspired by the activism. Decommissioning was not a good description. The panel was about Vermont Yankee today. We found out what the legislature might do, how we can take part in that; what Mass. and Conn. have already done; plus we learned tons about the suit by Entergy and how it comes into the entire picture. These three people work together and play off each other in ways that makes their presentation highly alive. Roger and I recommend that we invite them to repeat this evening, which has already been given in a number of southern locations.

Sophie Quest  
Burlington, VT

A panel discussion will be followed by an open Q&A discussion. The panel will include: This event is co-sponsored by the Safe & Green Campaign, New England Coalition on Nuclear Pollution and Nuclear Free Vermont by 2012. Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Deb Katz 413.339.5781. Panelist are available for interviews before the event.

Citizens Awareness Network, instrumental in the closures of Yankee Rowe, Ct Yankee and Millstone Unit 1 reactors, intervened in the NRC Atomic Safety and Licensing Board hearings on Yankee Rowe and Ct Yankee reactors. CAN won a lawsuit against the NRC in the first circuit Appellate Court over the illegal decommissioning of the Yankee Rowe reactor, the violation of citizen hearing rights and EPA regulations; Represented nuclear worker's health and safety interests before an NRC Atomic Safety and Licensing Board; **PARTICIPATED** in an NRC **WORKSHOP** - Site Specific Advisory Boards for Decommissioning, presented a model for public participation; Organized a "Peoples' Hearing" on Decommissioning Presenters included representatives from Union of Concerned Scientists, Nuclear Information and Resource Service, and Radioactive Waste Management Assoc; Organized Caravan of Conscience Tours to accompany waste shipments from Yankee Rowe And Ct Yankee to Barnwell, SC to high light issues of environmental racism and to alert transport communities about the shipments. CAN commissioned a seminal paper by Dr. Gordon on the vulnerability of reactor fuel pools to terrorism in a post 9/11 world that focused on Vermont Yankee and Indian Point.

Bob Stannard is a registered lobbyist in Vermont having represented issues of concerns for entities ranging from municipalities to citizen groups. His issues have covered the spectrum from education funding to genetically modified organisms, to Right to Farm/nuisance issues. Currently, he represents the Vt. Citizens Action Network assisting them in their effort to close the Vermont Yankee power plant as scheduled in 2012. His interests lie in assisting those who either don't have or have great difficulty having a voice in the legislative process. He is the only lobbyist representing the interest of citizens in Massachusetts and New Hampshire as well as Vermont. In addition to his profession as a lobbyist, Mr. Stannard is also an author and a professional musician.

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