It’s not about executives misleading us about a radioactive plume leaking into our groundwater.

Do we really want to do business with Entergy for the next 20 to 40 years?

Vermonters have seen the Entergy Nuclear Power Plant literally collapse under Entergy’s watch and now we have a radioactive plume leaching into our groundwater through underground pipes that were told, UNDER OATH, did not exist. They had opportunities to correct their false records, but did not.

Gov. Douglas is hoping that by firing a few middle management executives that confidence can be restored in this out-of-state mega-corporation used to getting its own way. The problem is not with a few managers. The problem is systemic. It is time to close the plant as scheduled in 2012 and say goodbye to a corporation that apparently cares little about the states in which they do business. Here are but a few examples of Entergy’s behavior in other states over the past few years.

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December 3, 2008 - Mississippi’s attorney general filed a lawsuit against Entergy Corp. and its subsidiaries Tuesday, claiming the companies illegally manipulated the purchase and sale of electricity to maximize profits.

2000 - The New Orleans case, Gordon v. The Council of the City of New Orleans, served as one reference point in Attorney General Hood’s lawsuit against Entergy Mississippi because the New Orleans City Council had concluded that Entergy had engaged in the practice of inflating prices to cover costs not allowed in New Orleans fuel adjustment charges. The council believed Entergy New Orleans had incorrectly charged customers to pay for System Fuels Inc. (another Entergy company formed to buy fuel for Entergy affiliates) costs, and appointed an investigator to estimate exactly how much the company had supposedly overcharged ratepayers from 1985 through 2000. **The council then ordered Entergy to repay $11.3 million;** $7.2 million in fees plus $4.1 million in interest. Some New Orleans residents and business owners felt the fines didn’t reflect the offense. The council’s own advisors had recommended fining Entergy $34.3 million, not $11.3 million, so they appealed the decision to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals last year. That court ruled that the council’s $11.3 million refund was disproportionate to a refund ordered in a comparable settlement with the Louisiana Public Service Commission in Delaney v. Entergy, Inc. for $72 million—a case with similar overcharges that Entergy settled after nearly a decade of fighting with the state. **The court then upped the fines to reflect the city’s population to more than $34 million.**

Jul 10, 2009 - The Louisiana Public Service Commission accused Entergy Corp. of profiteering at consumers’ expense, alleging the company's Arkansas utility was selling low-cost electric energy intended for system affiliates to third-party power marketers, including Duke Energy Corp. and Westar Energy Inc.

Jan 09, 2009 - In a fraud and antitrust suit brought by Mississippi's attorney general against Entergy Corp., admitted that a subsidiary sold power to the state under a contract that was the subject of a similar suit that resulted in a $72 million refund to Louisiana customers.

Oct 30, 2008 - Entergy Corp. has been issued a subpoena from the Mississippi Public Service Commission, ordering the company to hand over documents and transcripts from two Louisiana court cases that alleged the energy giant overcharged customers.

Mar 14, 2008 - The U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission levied $5.4 million in fines against natural gas providers Constellation Energy Group Inc. and Entergy New Orleans Inc. for allegedly breaking the regulator's capacity release rules.
Feb 15, 2008 - A federal judge gave New Orleans residents the green light to press on with their long-running antitrust case against Entergy.

Feb 05, 2008 - A group of black employees hit power company Entergy Corp. with a lawsuit alleging they were victims of “extreme indifference” that allowed racial discrimination to go unchecked.

Jan 25, 2008 - The Nuclear Regulatory Commission proposed a $650,000 fine to Entergy Corp. for failure to complete the installation of a new emergency notification system with backup power at the Indian Point nuclear power plant in New York.

Apr 25, 2007 - A bankrupt subsidiary of Entergy Corp. will receive $200 million in federal funding, marking an important step towards the company’s emergence from Chapter 11 protection. (These would be your tax dollars).

Dec 2, 2009 - As a Member of the City Council, Jay Batt sided with Entergy over and over while electric bills kept going up for Orleans Parish consumers. Batt took thousands in campaign contributions from Entergy and their lobbyists and used their private jet. (Fortunately, to the best of our knowledge no one from Vt. has used their private jet, but some received campaign contributions)

Apr 24, 2007 - The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Monday proposed to fine Energy Corp. $130,000 for its failure to meet a deadline to implement a new alert and notification system for the Indian Point.

Aug. 8, 2009 - State regulators may fine Vermont Yankee for failing to monitor radiation that comes from its high-level nuclear waste. The company was required to report the temperature and radiation from storage containers that hold spent nuclear fuel. Larry Smith of Entergy “it’s an oversight by us”.

August 26, 2008 - New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo diverted power generator Entergy Nuclear’s plans to renege on its contract with the New York Power Authority move that would have cost the state nearly $432 million over the next six years.

May 20, 2008 - A partial brake failure on a crane working with radioactive materials at Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant, lead to a load being dropped.

September, ’09 - City of Beaumont, Texas filed suit in the 172nd state District Court. The city claims an outside audit of electrical services provided by Entergy Texas revealed it was billed for streetlights that did not exist and maintenance that did not occur, and was billed for light bulbs at higher wattages.

Jan 14, 2010 - Entergy "did not provide accurate information to the department or its contractor" when asked about underground piping at the plant. - Comm. David O’Brien in a letter to the PSB.

This is only a sample of information available. Is this really the company you would choose to tether Vermont to for twenty years?

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