

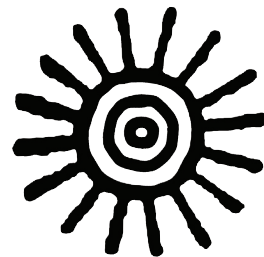
SUMMER 2026

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The CAN-Did Press

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

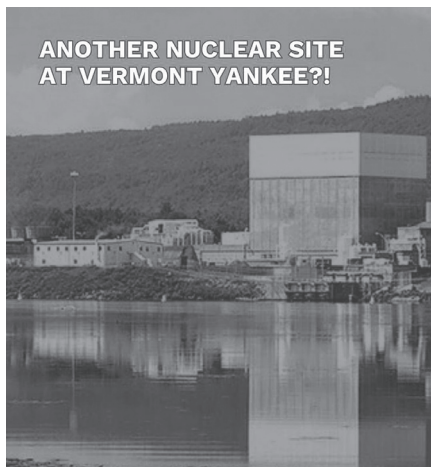


Vermont Yankee Update—Legislative Shenanigans

The state's current gambit, to make nuclear power officially "clean" under state law and remove the required legislative approval of any new use of nuclear power from state law, went nowhere in the legislature this year, but we expect it will be resurrected—and we need to be ready! CAN will be conducting a campaign of public education and contact with legislators, and we will be calling on Vermonters for help.

Decommissioning... And Then What?

The decommissioning of Vermont Yankee continues. It is almost done, on budget and on time. Some very important things remain on site: 60 casks of high-level nuclear waste, and at least four things that make power developers salivate: electrical and transportation (railroad) infrastructure, water for cooling (i.e. the Connecticut River), an NRC license to operate a nuclear reactor,



and a state government that is increasingly supportive of nuclear power. Governor Scott is hand-in-hand with the Trump administration on that score! Scott refuses to admit that millions of curies of radioactive waste on the banks of the Connecticut River are a problem.

Don't Expect Transparency Along the Way

NorthStar, the current owner, has leased the site to Power Transitions, a Texas-based power development company that is exploring options for the site, which include small modular reactors, battery storage, and/or a data center. It has recently surfaced that a

lease was signed two years ago without consultation with the state or with the Town of Vernon—or anyone else. This was contrary to NorthStar's agreement with the state, which gave the town first

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Seabrook Reactor's Alarming Concrete Degradation

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission hosted the annual public safety meeting for Seabrook Station Nuclear Power Plant, NH on May 26, 2026 at the Seabrook Library.

C-10 Research and Education Foundation, who's mission is to monitor Seabrook Station and to advocate for its safe operation in order to protect public health and the natural environment, was present at the meeting. C-10 leadership posed questions concerning Seabrook Station's alarming concrete degradation problem and questioned the continued assurance of safety at the plant in light of the recent sweeping changes from Presidential Executive Orders that broadly relax the safety rules and decrease transparency at Seabrook and all operating nuclear plants.

Legislative Aides from Senators Markey, Warren, and Shaheen were in attendance and made powerful comments emphasizing that public health and safety is the priority and thanking C-10 for their advocacy.

—Lisa Clark, C-10 & CAN member

Victory for Vermont and Massachusetts Citizens!

**MA Gov. Healey's proposed repeal of
Chapter 503, is NOT in the senate Energy Bill!
VT Gov. Scott's Bill to classify nuclear as "clean" was Defeated!**

In June, the Massachusetts Senate released its Energy Bill S.3143. Last summer, Governor Healey introduced legislation that would promote nuclear power in the state and undermine the ability for citizens to determine their energy future. Healey introduced an energy bill that included a poison pill: repeal a 1982 Act (Chapter 503) that set guardrails for any new nuclear development including a statewide referendum. The House Energy Bill that passed this winter, supported Healey's initiative rolling back the guardrails that protect our communities and ensure a democratic process. Why not let the people decide?

As the people of Massachusetts learned about this attempt to curtail the peoples' voice, the issue became controversial and an upwelling of opposition from across the state, opposing the

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Victory for Massachusetts and Vermont Citizens!

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repeal, emerged. People as well as environmental organizations, urged their Senators to oppose this initiative again and again and they won: the repeal is not included in the Senate legislation!

In Vermont, Scott's attempt to reclassify nuclear as "clean" in the legislature went down in defeat—it never made it out of committee! CAN worked with coalition partners to pressure legislators to reject a proposal that, in addition to reclassification, would eviscerate the legislature's power to decide the fate of nuclear power in the state!

In a failed attempt to meet state commitments to end carbon, Healey and Scott proposed changing the designation of nuclear to a "clean" energy source. Healey won legislative approval; Scott did not. This change in Massachusetts paved the way for the Healey Administration's initiative to bring nuclear power back to the state.

Why now?

New England has the highest electric rates in the country. People are suffering—issues of affordability are real and immediate in our region. However, it's not solved by bringing untested heavily subsidized nuclear back. Claims are made that it's the closing of 6 out of 9 reactors in the region that has led to this debacle. It's not. The blame falls squarely on the gas industry and its choice to replace deteriorating piping rather than repair an aging system.

The repeal in MA and the reclassification in VT represent an attack on our democracy and an assault on our environment. With the Trump administration's promotion of nuclear power and its relaxation of regulations and reduction in radiation protection standards, repealing an act that protects the state and its people is irresponsible and dangerous.

If Governors Healey and Scott's push to bring nuclear power back to MA and VT succeeds, many communities will suffer. The target for nuclear power and its toxic waste has always been the working poor, people of color, and Indigenous communities, whose sacred homelands become the sacrifice zones and cancer alleys.

What Happens Now?

Six legislators were named in July to negotiate competing House and Senate versions of a bill called "An Act to Save People Money, Repair the Climate, and Grow the Economy" in Massachusetts. Sounds innocuous. They will meet regularly to create a bill both houses can live with. We must ensure that the repeal is not included in any deal cut by these Senators and House reps. The Senate needs to hold the line!

Now a Texas company, Power Transitions, is coming to Vermont potentially bringing battery storage, one or more small modular reactors, and more waste. It's been in backroom negotiations with the Governor for over a year! This is happening while the governor is trying to claim that nuclear power is "clean" and paves the way for power transitions. The town of Vernon was not party to these negotiations and only found out last month that they had no seat at the table—talk about transparency.

So the town is now in negotiations, but what about the surrounding towns? What about other Vermont towns, not to mention Massachusetts and New Hampshire towns right across the border? Who gets to say yes? Radiation doesn't stop at the town line! If the Healey and the Scott Administrations' push to bring nuclear back succeeds, many communities will suffer. Communities forced to choose between short term economic survival and long term health and safety.

It's important to remember that the people already spoke. The people shuttered six out of nine New England reactors because of their systematic failures and their contamination of our land and waterways. The legacy of the most toxic waste ever created trapped at reactor sites throughout New England with no solution. Now add climate disruption and acts of malice—we can and must do better. We need real solutions, not a legacy of broken promises.

What Can We Do?

Massachusetts: The Senate voted to pass their Energy Bill without the repeal of Chapter 503. After the Bill passed, a conference committee was established, to continue negotiations to meld the Senate (S.3143) and the House (H.5151) Bills. The committee is comprised of three house members and three senators, including Senator Barrett and House Representative Cusack. See the list below.

Remember, the House passed its Bill earlier in the year with the repeal of Chapter 503. We must keep the pressure on Senate representatives again to hold the line on no repeal. It's also important to contact your House reps to pressure them to oppose any repeal.

The MA Conference Committee

- Senator Michael Barrett • Senator Cynthia Creem
- Senator Bruce Tarr • Representative Mark Cusack
- Representative Aaron Michlewitz
- Representative Bradley Jones

Find contact information here: malegislature.gov/Search/FindMyLegislator

Vermont: Scott's attempt to change nuclear energy's designation failed. But he will be back. In Maine, the industry's driven legislation was introduced and rejected three times! It's important to contact your legislators and tell them to support real solutions, not an irresponsible and failed industry driven by the Trump administration. Contact your legislators and tell them nuclear power is a false solution—we need real solutions not backdoor deals with the Scott Administration and Power Transitions or any other corporation!

Find contact information here: legislature.vermont.gov/people/

Act Today to Protect Tomorrow

We ask people to contact their legislators today and tell them to support sustainable energy solutions, not the false promises of the nuclear industry.

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Vermont Yankee Update—Legislative Shenanigans

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option on the property. The state does not appear to be contesting this breach of promise. This has not been a transparent process, to say the least.

The Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel (NDCAP) last met at the end of February, 2026. Their next meeting will take place sometime this summer, after a report from the state on contaminants at the site is completed. The NDCAP's Federal Nuclear Waste Policy Committee (FNWPC) raised some very interesting issues at the last Panel meeting. Things at the federal level are changing very rapidly, and there is a lack of transparency there as well. The Committee Chair and others see the Panel as being in a unique position to offer advisory opinions based on the community's direct experience with VY's operation and decommissioning.

For further information on the NDCAP and the FNWPC, go to publicservice.vermont.gov/vermont-nuclear-decommissioning-citizens-advisory-panel-vt-ndcap

—Ann Darling, CAN Board of Directors

Victory for Massachusetts and Vermont Citizens

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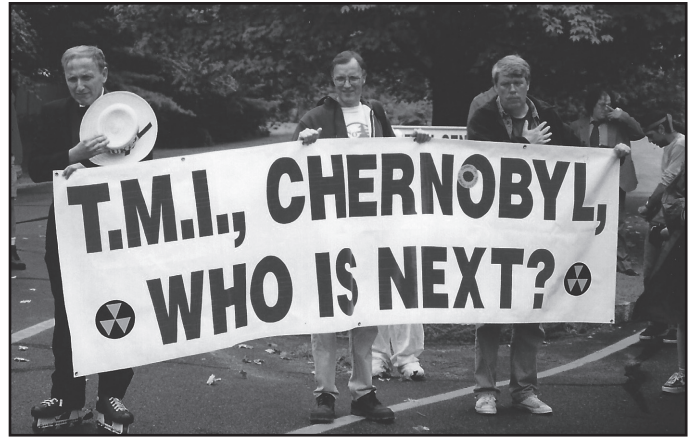
We must stop the repeal of our rights to determine our energy future. Clean water, clean land, clean air, and a safe place to live are fundamental human rights. Don't let them take it away.

Thank you for your help.

—Deb Katz, Executive Director Citizens Awareness Network

The guardrails of Chapter 503 of the Acts of 1982

1. A federally licensed facility for permanent disposal of high-level radioactive waste must be in operation.
2. Effective emergency preparedness and evacuation plans.
3. Emission standards to protect the public against the hazards of radioactive pollutants.
4. Federally approved means for decommissioning.
5. A nuclear plant must provide the optimal means of meeting energy needs.
6. Statewide general election that requires a majority of voters to approve.



Another Nuclear Reactor at Vermont Yankee?

Governor Phil Scott has labeled nuclear power as “clean” for three consecutive legislative sessions. The Bill to amend the Renewable Energy Standard was not taken up again this year. This time the Bill also included allowing for the storage of additional high-level radioactive waste at the Vermont Yankee site and proposed eliminating the current requirement that the General Assembly must approve the construction of any new nuclear power plants in Vermont.

We are certain to see action to promote nuclear power in the next legislative session. Any move to repeal the statute that requires an affirmative vote by the General Assembly must be stopped! Our elected representatives must have a voice. We encourage everyone to reach out to their legislators and ask them to reject any attempt to eliminate legislative approval for nuclear power plant construction.

Contact your VT legislator here: legislature.vermont.gov/people/

—Chris Williams, NIRS Chair, VCAN Organizer, and CAN Board of Directors

Thank You from CAN Board & Organizers We couldn't do it without you!

Bob Bady • Paul Burton • Cape Downwinders
Center for Health, Environment & Justice
Claire Chang & John Ward • Lisa Clark
Commonwealth Coalition for Democracy & Safe Energy
Connie Childs • Clamshell Alliance • Dean's Beans
Lionel Delevingne • Court Dorsey
Florence V Burden Foundation • Gerry Hersh
Jerry Greenfield & Elizabeth Skarie • Benjamin Katz
Lintilhac Foundation • Leona Morgan
National Radioactive Waste Coalition
Nuclear Information and Resource Service
Rothschild Foundation • Shantigar Foundation
Bob Stannard • Amy Shollenberger
Jim Thornley • van Itallie Foundation
VY Decommissioning Alliance • Eesha Williams

The Nuclear Industry Has Its Crosshairs On New Mexico

The so-called “energy emergency” has prompted fast-tracking of projects—banning of uranium imports from Russia, nuclear deregulations, and nuclear energy as a false solution to climate change—and are inflating a nuclear bubble.

National and international factors, including uranium as a critical mineral needed for nuclear weapons production, have caused uranium exploration near Canjilon, in the Carson National Forest and Chama watershed. This has spurred strong opposition by locals, two county commissions, and New Mexico’s Congressional delegation who are calling to suspend permitting until legislation to withdraw the Chama watershed from all mineral development, is considered. Health and environmental concerns extend downstream of the Rio Chama, a major tributary of the Rio Grande, all the way to the Gulf of Mexico.

Meanwhile, in the Grants Mining District, amidst hundreds of legacy uranium sites, are four uranium mining proposals; three along the periphery of the Mt. Taylor Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) and one in McKinley County.

Mt. Taylor is considered sacred by Indigenous Nations, yet the TCP does not prohibit extraction. La Jara Mesa and Roca Honda on the western side of Mt. Taylor are proposed conventional mines, requiring transport to a mill for processing. The only US licensed uranium mill is in southeast Utah.

Laramide Resources, Toronto and Grants Energy, NM propose in situ leach (ISL) mines that extract uranium from the aquifer. ISL mines use injection wells to pump in a chemical solution to release the uranium and production wells to pump out the uranium laden sludge that requires another facility for processing. Laramide’s ISL project would extract uranium near Churchrock and Crownpoint and process it in Crownpoint. Grants Energy proposes ISL mining and processing at the same site.

This past April, at the “Nuclear in New Mexico: Fueling the U.S. Nuclear Renaissance” conference, proponents falsely touted ISL methods as “eco-friendly” and celebrated New Mexico as an untapped resource for all things nuclear. A similar conference in May, hosted by Native American Mining and Energy Sovereignty, focused on the benefits of resource extraction and energy development including topics: High Pressure Slurry Ablation, powering AI Data Centers, and production of fossil fuels and critical minerals.

As the nuclear industry invades, making plans for New Mexico’s future, wastes from past uranium mines, mills, and nuclear weapons production are left unaddressed. Los Alamos National Labs has an estimated 500,000 cubic meters of legacy waste in unlined landfills, septic tanks and in 2,000 containers stored above



ground in tents, all within a wildfire zone. LANL wastes go to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, yet there have been challenges delaying removal of legacy waste prompting the NM Environment Department to issue a permit modification for the US Department of Energy’s Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) to prioritize emplacement of LANL legacy waste before waste from other facilities and from

plutonium pit production.

In April, the National Nuclear Security Administration issued a draft programmatic environmental impact statement for nationwide plutonium pit production at several national facilities including LANL. Plutonium pits are the trigger for nuclear weapons and pit production has a fraught history. New pits would be for new weapons, deemed unnecessary by opponents and illegal under international law.

The false premise that nuclear energy, generating forever radioactive wastes, is somehow safe and clean and propaganda that nuclear weapons create peace, are driving the demand for uranium and a nuclear economy in our state, New Mexico. The people of New Mexico have the lived experience of health and environmental destruction from the nuclear industry; we must not allow history to repeat itself.

—Leona Morgan (Diné) is a longtime community organizer and anti-nuclear activist

Upcoming Events

Come meet us and our mock nuclear waste cask

Thursday, September 10, 2026 at 5:00 PM
Franklin County Parade at 5:00 PM
in Greenfield, MA

Would you like to stay informed
by email about our events?
Sign up for our CAN alerts here:
nukebusters.org/contact.php

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