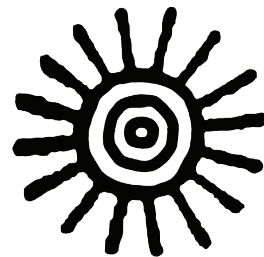




The CAN-Did Press



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

The Meltdown in Democracy!

Massachusetts Governor Healey is supporting legislation that embraces nuclear power and undermines the democratic process by repealing a law that requires a referendum on nuclear power before any reactor can be built in the state! Healey doesn't want the voters to decide what a "clean" energy future looks like. This legislation is on a fast track! It's important that Healey and our legislators know that this is unacceptable.

It's a slap in the face to Massachusetts' communities that have borne nuclear power's assault on their lives and undermined their waterways, air, and land. Our communities are stuck with high level radioactive waste dumps—vulnerable to acts of malice and climate disruption.

This is a meltdown in democracy!

Please contact Governor Healey directly to say NO—we don't want nukes and we don't want our rights taken away. We need a "clean" energy future not a radioactive legacy for generations to come.

Contact Governor Healey now:

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/email-the-governors-office>
Bill H.4144—An Act relative to energy affordability, independence and innovation: <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/H4144>

Vermont Yankee Decommissioning Update

The Vermont Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel met for the first time in 2025 on May 12. A milestone of sorts has been reached in the decommissioning process. Aside from site restoration activities and the removal of 42 years of High Level Nuclear Waste (HLNW), the only significant task remaining is the demolition of the reactor building.

The Panel was presented with an overview of decontamination activities in the building and the preparation of the site for demolition, as well as an overview of the "De-inventory Report" for Vermont Yankee—preparations by the Department of Energy for the removal of VY's HLNW to "a future federal consolidated interim storage facility (ISF)."

The panel also discussed the rail cars, trucks, and "transport overpacks" newly designed to handle the 58 canisters of HLNW and the one of Greater Than Class C (GTCC) waste remaining onsite. Also outlined were the possible routes to transport the waste to a generic Geographic Center of the United States (GCUS). The panel acknowledged that federal law still prohibits the use of an

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Governor Healey advocates for nuclear power in just one paragraph in the introduction letter to this bill, repealing the referendum on the people's decision on nuclear power in the state of Massachusetts:

"In Massachusetts, in addition to requiring rigorous federal, state, and local approvals through formal siting and licensing processes that require public input, any proposed new nuclear fission facility must also secure approval via a statewide ballot initiative with a majority vote. No other generation source in the state requires this statewide ballot initiative approval. This Act would repeal a 1982 law that mandates that any new nuclear facility receive approval through a statewide ballot initiative, eliminating a major barrier to the consideration of new small modular reactors that could improve reliability, stabilize prices, and decarbonize the region's power grid. Since 2020, eight of the 14 states with a nuclear moratorium or similar provisions have either fully or partially lifted limitations on building new nuclear and three more states are exploring it."

[See CAN's Executive Director Deb Katz' testimony and our Press release: www.nukebusters.org.]

The Low Level Waste Storymap

There are some exciting new developments in our Low-Level Waste Campaign!

We have a spiffy new "storymap" on the CAN website that tells the story of Pilgrim Nuclear's low-level waste shipments (curie counts, radionuclides, etc.) in an easily digestible and compelling way. This storymap is a template for telling the same story for all the New England nukes. Please take a look and let us know what you think! (A big tip of the gratitude hat to Katelyn Beirne, a recent graduate of Worcester Polytech!)

One of our ultimate goals is to use the data from "our" nukes in New England as a tool to connect with communities near where "our" waste went. As Deb Katz put it, "this is to create a narrative about and for people who have been sacrificed talking with others who have been sacrificed." The research and outreach we need to take this project beyond data-gathering require some resources that CAN alone does not have. Two professors (one from WPI Environmental and Sustainability Studies, and the other from UMass Environmental Health) have signed on to recruit from among their students and help shape the project. We're still fleshing out our plans, but they involve checking in with folks around Barnwell

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Statement for Petitions Hand-off

CAN Vice President, Chris Nord delivered the statement below to the “Executive Offices” at the Massachusetts State House on June 10, where members of Cape Downwinders, Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility, Citizens Awareness Network, and others delivered petitions from a dozen towns near Plymouth, calling on Governor Healey to enforce the Massachusetts laws prohibiting Holtec from releasing radiation into our air and water. Although the Governor’s staff knew for many days in advance that we were coming, and in spite of the fact that Diane Turco, Executive Director of Cape Downwinders and CAN Board member, is on speaking terms with the Governor—and those of her staff working on nuclear issues—we were kept in the hallway outside the office entrance and greeted by a very young staffer who knew nothing about the issue. Every one of us who had taken the time to go there in the spirit of small “d” democracy felt disrespected by our treatment. Governor Healey clearly wants to forget her erstwhile “No radiation on my watch” promises. But let’s not allow that.

My name is Christopher Nord. I am a homeowner in Amesbury, on the North Shore— within the Emergency Planning Zone of the Seabrook atomic reactor. I am a long-time Vice President of the Citizens Awareness Network, with organizers in most New England states.

Lawmakers sometimes need to be reminded of the campaign promises that got them elected and what existing laws they have sworn to uphold. Governor Healey promised that no radiation releases would be permitted during Holtec’s decommissioning of the Pilgrim reactor site while she was Governor. Attorney General Andrea Campbell swore an oath to all Massachusetts citizens to uphold and enforce the laws of our state. And yet, in the two years since they each took office, one million gallons of radioactive water vapor has thus far been released to the sky—polluting not only our air, but Massachusetts coastal waters as well—from the scrapped Pilgrim atomic reactor.

This fact stands not only as a direct contradiction to guber-

natorial candidate Healey’s promises to her citizens; it is also a direct violation of laws that Attorney General Campbell has taken a sacred vow to uphold.

Perhaps the most prominent of these Massachusetts laws is the Ocean Sanctuaries Act. When Holtec decided to circumvent the state’s decision not to allow the direct ocean release of Pilgrim’s radioactive wastewater, they chose to boil off this water to the air under the ruse of providing heat for workers. However, it had been determined years before, while the atomic reactor was still being operated by Entergy, that 60% of any airborne emissions from the site would end up falling into our coastal waters—our “ocean sanctuary” [1]—if only we treated it as such. How is this not a violation of our state’s laws; and why are our own laws not being enforced?

Radiation entering the extraordinary ecosystem of Cape Cod Bay tends to stay within the bay, as explained before the Massachusetts Nuclear Decommissioning Advisory Panel by researchers affiliated with the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute.[2]

Furthermore, recent studies have shown that common fission by-products released to the air and water in low doses can concentrate tremendously once in the food chain—similar to the previously known biohazards, like mercury and DDT, and Tritium (radioactive hydrogen) can accumulate in mud flats (Organically Bound Tritium, or OBT), as much as 250 times its concentration in the ambient seawater. Once OBT is taken up the food chain to the apex predators, it can be as much as 2000-6000 times the ambient concentration in surrounding water. [3] Tritium has been linked to Down Syndrome, cancers, and birth abnormalities in at least one cancer study here in Massachusetts. [4]

At a time when the democratic process we all should cherish is under such an unprecedented threat, it is imperative that those we elect uphold the Constitution and the laws of our home state. The laws that Holtec violates with seeming impunity put a priceless ecosystem at risk of serious long-term degradation. In so doing, Massachusetts citizens’ well-being and livelihoods are needlessly threatened. We call upon Governor Healey and Attorney General Andrea Campbell to do the jobs for which they were elected, and enforce the laws created to protect common people.

Stop the dumping of Holtec’s radionuclides into our air and waters.

[1] Exhibit No. ENT000001 Pilgrim LR Proceeding 50-293-LR, 06-848-02-LR ENT – O’Kula and Hanna 8 Meteorological Testimony January 3, 2011 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION, Before the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel.

[2] Dr. Ken Buesseler, marine radiochemist, and Dr. Irina Rypina, physical oceanographer; 11/26/24.

[3] Tim Deere-Jones, marine pollution consultant, UK; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wHQqwXKe1_M

[4] “Cancer Incidence and Down Syndrome Prevalence in the Deerfield River Valley, Massachusetts”, Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Environmental Health Assessment, Community Assessment Unit; February, 1997.

- Chris Nord, CAN Vice President

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

Prof. Sasha Adkins (UMass) • ARIA Foundation
Lindsay Arruda • Bob Bady • Katelyn Beirne
Paul Burton • Cape Downwinders • Claire Chang
Center for Health, Environment & Justice
Commonwealth Coalition for Democracy & Safe Energy
Connie Childs • Clamshell Alliance
Dean’s Beans • Lionel Delevingne • Court Dorsey
Reed Effenson • Florence V Burden Foundation
Jerry Greenfield & Elizabeth Skarie • Guacamole
Foundation • Gerry Hersh • Benjamin Katz
Lintilhac Foundation • Lynn Loflin & Stuart Wexelbaum
Sam Lovejoy • Nuclear Information and Resource Service
Bonnie Raitt • Rothschild Foundation
Nelia Sargent & Scott Neilsen • Sigrid Schmalzer
Shantigar Foundation • Bob Stannard • Jim Thornley
Prof. Seth Tuler (WPI) • van Itallie Foundation
Vermont Yankee Decommissioning Alliance • John Ward
Western Mass Science for the People • Eesha Williams

Vermont Legislature Activity

Governor Phil Scott and his staff once again attempted to get the Vermont Legislature to label nuclear power as “clean” for the purpose of achieving emission standards for climate goals. Fortunately, the initiative failed again this year. CAN would like to thank all of our members who contacted their legislators with the clear message that nuclear is not clean and never will be.

The attempt to label nuclear as clean is a clear attack on the development of renewable energy resources in Vermont. Both the fossil fuel and nuclear industries are spending large sums of money and political capital coast to coast to destroy conservation, efficiency, and renewable energy development.

There was also a bill introduced to study the feasibility of bringing Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) to Vermont. The bill did not move out of committee. It is likely the bill will return next session. In the meantime, it is important that Vermonters remember that we have fifty-eight huge casks of high-level nuclear waste from Vermont Yankee sitting on the banks of the Connecticut River with nowhere to go. The USA is sprinting to bring back nuclear power construction without any significant activity as to how to manage the more than one hundred thousand tons of waste produced since the birth of the technology.

We should also note that the Vermont Yankee reactor building was scheduled to be demolished this summer. CAN was instrumental in forcing NorthStar, the owners of VY, to defer the demolition of this significant structure until after the elementary school across the road was closed for the school year.

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

VY Decommissioning

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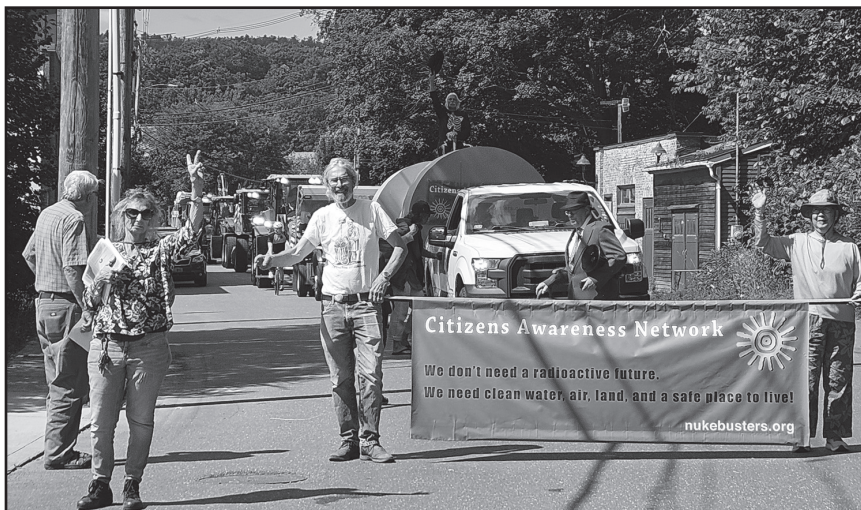
ISF until a permanent repository is licensed. Whether or not that restriction can be overridden in the current Congress remains to be seen. Once begun, from whenever and to wherever, the removal is estimated to cost \$18.5 million and to take 81 weeks.

To NorthStar’s credit, there haven’t been any OSHA “Recordable Lost Time Accidents” nor NRC “Cited Violations” since the beginning of the decommissioning process, and it is on track to complete its work well ahead of the 2030 commitment to the state of Vermont. It is noted that to date approximately 36,000 curies of radioactivity have been removed from the site during its decommissioning.

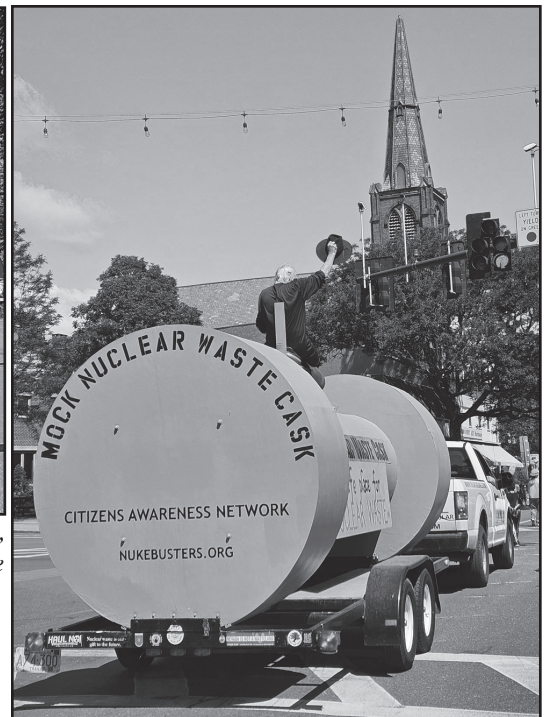
For an indeterminate time, the legacy of 42 years of Vermont Yankee’s generation of electricity, 117 million curies of radioactivity will be stored onsite. However, for the townspeople of Vernon, the citizens of Vermont, the larger regional community, the people of this nation, the citizens of the world, there is, of course, no happy ending to this story. Ever. There is no effective “disposal” option for waste that is toxic for over one million years and that threatens the very DNA of life on this planet. The Yucca Mountain repository was nixed—not for political reasons as its proponents claim—but for its failure to guarantee effective isolation of the HLNW from the environment for a mere 10,000 much less one million years.

The only effective solution to High Level Nuclear Waste is to stop producing it. That should be the highest priority for any who value a healthy environment for generations to come.

- Schuyler Gould, CAN Board of Directors



Brattleboro Fourth of July Parade. (from left to right--Chris Williams, Deb Katz, Schuyler Gould, Jim Thornley on the cask, Court Dorsey as Will Newcomb, Claire Chang, John Ward is driving. Photos by Ann Darling



Tell NRC to Not Weaken Radiation Standards

Below are Citizens Awareness Network's Comments Regarding the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's response to Executive Order 14300 of May 23, 2025 directing the NRC to reconsider the underlying basis of RADIATION DOSE calculations and consider eviscerating Linear-No-Threshold (LNT) radiation model.

Citizens Awareness Network experiences the submission of these comments as an act of futility. The existing regulations do not protect the public—specifically impacted communities. In the abstract anything appears both possible and reasonable.

There are many organizations that will provide detailed testimony about why this is a bad idea. The only ones to benefit from this directive are the nuclear corporations that pollute our waterways, land, and air. This will make their bottom line brighter.

For the communities that are impacted by the nuclear fuel chain, it is a slap in the face once again. The linear-No-Threshold

radiation model is insufficient to protect communities which have suffered increases in cancer, immune deficiency diseases, as well as birth defects and miscarriages. Since our losses, like radiation itself, are invisible, we are invisible—statistically insignificant.

The grand schemes for a nuclear resurgence are far more important than our lost lives.

We live with the broken promises of the nuclear industry and the federal government. This is only one more broken promise in an endless series of broken promises to protect our health and safety.

While you entertain eviscerating what limited regulations remain, we live with empty chairs at our dinner tables and broken hearts.

- Deb Katz, Executive Director, CAN

Low Level Waste Storymap

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(SC), Andrews (TX), Clive (UT), and other communities to gauge interest in participating; gathering oral histories from residents of both waste and nuke sites, as well as students who've joined us on this journey; and creating more data and story visualizations using these sources.

Meanwhile, this summer we have two students continuing to collect and synthesize data (a tedious task with some interesting surprises) and then generate data visualizations for public education. The idea is to make the invisible visible and wake the world up to how filthy nuclear power really is just in its day-to-day operations, let alone the high-level waste from inside the reactors. This takes on some urgency as states are turning to nuclear to meet their climate goals. In Massachusetts, for instance, nuclear power was just designated as “clean energy,” and the Governor wants to get rid of a law requiring a statewide vote before nuclear power can be re-introduced to the state, with the aim of deploying Small Modular Reactors. An undemocratic wrong turn on her part.

Find the storymap on our website: www.nukebusters.org

- Ann Darling, CAN Board of Directors

In Memory of Waffles T. Clown



Multi-talented political activist Joshua J. Dostis, aka Waffles T. Clown, died on November 9, 2024. He was 83.

Clown extraordinaire Waffles toured with CAN—traveling the road from Yankee Rowe to Barnwell, SC. He participated in three CAN action camps in Southern Vermont and many demonstrations at VT Yankee, Yankee Rowe, and CT Yankee. He brought humor and sharp critique to our fight to shut all nuclear reactors. He will be missed. Rest in power, Waffles!

Work Opportunities

CAN wakes people up in a world that wants them to stay asleep. Grassroots organizing is the heart of our work. We work to open the public square and validate peoples' right to express their concerns and objections. We provide leadership in successful campaigns that harness grassroots power to take on the powers that be. Our campaigns are positive, framing the work around what's worth fighting for—clean water, air, and land—and offering positive actions people can take. We create bridges between reactor communities and targeted communities; communities facing continued radioactive contamination. Our organizing work highlights the need for impacted communities to work together to be the voice of conscience for a clean environment and sustainable communities, and for democracy itself.

Drivers: To educate and create awareness about the dangers of nuclear power, we tour New England (mostly Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont) with our “mock” nuclear waste cask. Given the push by the nuclear industry in New England to bring nukes back, it is essential to educate people to the industry's initiatives.

During the spring, summer, and fall we need drivers to tow a 24' twin-axle trailer—without electric or hydraulic brakes—to drive to events and fairs and participate in parades. You must be comfortable driving a rented full-size van or pickup truck, capable of operating a trailer rig in traffic, backing up in close quarters, and driving within crowded pedestrian traffic. One partial-day training will be provided, to familiarize drivers with the rig, and to confirm the necessary competence. Compensation depending on the duration of the event.

Massachusetts Organizer: We are also looking to hire a Part-time (5 hours per week) Massachusetts Community Organizer who can join our team to stop the nuclear industry's initiative to bring nuclear power back to Massachusetts and other New England states. Our campaign focuses on the issues of nuclear waste, environmental racism, climate disruption, and more by networking, building alliances, mobilizing, and planning with other groups, allies, and community members.

For more information and to send your resume, please contact Deb Katz: 413-834-3280 or info@nukebusters.org.