

Public Participation and Democracy:

CITIZEN ADVISORY PANEL for Vermont Yankee Decommissioning

Communities affected by nuclear facilities should have the ability to participate in matters that affect them. Citizens need a substantive role in order to clarify, negotiate and protect their community's interests. A Citizen Advisory Panel (CAP) can be a mechanism to ensure greater community participation. The CAP would meet regularly to give meaningful input into decisions concerning health and safety. The CAP would function to educate their communities to the technology that exists in their neighborhood and its effects and advocate for their communities interests with regulators and corporations. Although the CAP is relevant to all stages of nuclear power production, it is especially relevant to site cleanup.

Purview of CAP:

The Panel shall serve in an advisory capacity only and shall not have authority to direct decommissioning of the Vermont Yankee. The duties of the CAP would be:

- (1) To hold a minimum of four public meetings each year for the purpose of discussing issues to the decommissioning of the Vermont Yankee. The Panel may hold additional meetings.
- (2) To advise the Governor, the General Assembly, and the agencies of the State on issues related to the decommissioning of the Vermont Yankee, with a written report being provided annually to the Governor and to the energy committees of the General Assembly.
- (3) To serve as a conduit for public information and education on and to encourage community involvement in matters related to the decommissioning of the Vermont Yankee.
- (4) To periodically receive reports on the Decommissioning Trust Fund and other funds associated with decommissioning of or site restoration at Vermont Yankee, including fund balances, expenditures made, and reimbursements received.
- (5) To receive reports regarding the decommissioning plans for Vermont Yankee, including any site assessments and post-shutdown decommissioning assessment reports; provide a forum for receiving public comment on these plans and reports; and to provide comment on these plans and reports as the Panel may consider appropriate to State agencies and the owner of Vermont Yankee and in the annual report.

Participants:

- Secretary of Human Services or designee (ex officio)
- Secretary of Natural Resources or designee (ex officio)
- Commissioner of Public Service or designee (ex officio)
 - Chair until another elected.
 - Will convene first meeting.
- Secretary of Commerce and Community Development or designee (ex officio)
- Representative of the Town of Vernon, selected by Vernon select board
- One member of each of the Vermont House and Senate Natural Resource and Energy Committees
- One member of the Windham Regional Commission or designee
- 6 members of the public
 - 2 each appointed by the Governor, The Speaker, and the Senate President Pro Tem
- 2 representatives of Vermont Yankee, selected by the owner of VY
- One representative of the IBEW, selected by IBEW, who is a past or present employee at Vermont Yankee
- One member from NH, appointed by the Gov. of NH
- One member from MA, appointed by the Gov. of MA