

A partnership to benefit the entire state of Vermont



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CONTACTS: Amanda Ibey
223-0575 (Vermont Energy Partnership Office)
(802) 272-0053 (cell)
ibey@vtep.org

Vermont Leaders Voice Strong Support for License Extension of Vermont Yankee

Montpelier, VT/January 31, 2007 – The Vermont Energy Partnership, a diverse group of 75 business, labor and community leaders as well as individual energy experts today reiterated its strong support for a license extension of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station in Vernon. The Partnership is concerned about the severe impending electricity supply gap and what it means for Vermont’s economy and environment.

Vermont Yankee has consistently provided reliable and clean power, safely and efficiently for more than three decades. Today it provides one third of the state’s electricity. Vermont Yankee has been a staple of the Vermont economy, and helped to make its electricity portfolio one of the cleanest in the country.

At today’s Nuclear Regulatory Commission hearings on the license renewal of the plant and through written remarks, Partnership members will comment on the plant’s local and state-wide importance. They will address its proven and sound safety record, its economic importance, and its role in mitigating pollution and keeping Vermont clean.

Below are excerpts from seven members’ statements.

“Vermont’s energy future needs to be addressed now. We simply cannot remain economically competitive, and provide as many opportunities for young people to stay in the state, if we do not have abundant and competitively priced power. It has been more than 20 years since a large new power facility was built in the state. We need to build new facilities, particularly renewables, and keep Vermont Yankee which provides reliable and affordable 24/7 base-load power to Vermont. It has also done so without causing the harmful greenhouse gas emissions that lead to global warming.”

Thomas P. Salmon
Former Governor of Vermont

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“Vermont can proudly say it has one of the lowest carbon emitting electricity portfolios of any state in the U.S. largely because of Vermont Yankee’s operation. For over thirty years, Vermont Yankee has been providing Vermont with one-third of its electricity without emitting carbon, nitrogen and sulfur dioxides that destroy air, water and land quality.

Jennifer Clancy
Clancy Environmental Consultants

“Opponents have made hysterical claims over the safety of Vermont Yankee, when in fact the plant undergoes, on a daily basis, intense scrutiny and review and has consistently achieved the Nuclear Regulatory Commission’s highest safety rating. Unfortunately, no one has discussed the public safety issues that are sure to arise if Vermont does not have an adequate supply of base-load power – and we won’t have that without Vermont Yankee. With the New England region strapped for power as it is, we cannot responsibly close the plant and expect that our neighbors will provide us with power. Should rolling blackouts or brownouts have to be implemented the stress it will place on our public safety and health will be enormous especially on the frigid winter days and nights where temperatures often hover and dip below zero.”

Jay Cummings
President – J.C. Image

“The value of Vermont Yankee for the Windham County community is immense. Aside from employing more than 600 men and women full-time, in 2005 Vermont Yankee spent approximately \$80 million dollars through payroll, local and state taxes and the purchase of local goods and services. Should Vermont Yankee not be re-licensed, Windham County would lose a major lynchpin of our economy.”

Martha O’Connor
Windham County Resident

“Re-licensing Vermont Yankee is the first step toward maintaining our clean, non-carbon emitting electricity portfolio. Energy efficiency and renewables cannot, without massive expense, increased costs and government control, feasibly replace the base load power supplied by Vermont Yankee. Those who clamor to shut the plant down are being unrealistic and irresponsible. Without Vermont Yankee, our only economic base-load replacement options are natural gas, oil or coal. All would have definite licensing and operation problems combined with a definite increase in our carbon footprint. Is increasing pollution really the direction Vermonters want to go?”

Milt Eaton
Former Vermont Secretary of Development and Community Affairs and
Retired U.S. Department of Energy Official

“Since 2002 when Entergy purchased the plant, Vermont Yankee’s operation has saved ratepayers \$157 million. According to the Department of Public Service it is estimated that by 2012 the plant will have saved

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Vermonters approximately \$250 million. These savings coupled with the need for predictable and sufficient electricity are critical for keeping and expanding businesses and jobs in Vermont especially at a time when energy prices are so high.”

Vicky Parra Tebbetts
Vice President of Communications, Vermont Chamber of Commerce

“It is crucial for Vermont to continue to build a diversified electricity portfolio that includes renewables, efficiency and conservation measures. The best way to do this is with Vermont Yankee as a cornerstone. Without Vermont Yankee we would be forced to buy power from other out-of-state base-load sources of power – predominantly fossil-fuel generating facilities -- at both a greater financial and environmental cost.”

Brad Ferland
President, Vermont Energy Partnership