

*Received from
Al Blakey via email
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Thank you for the opportunity to express myself on issues related to Entergy - Vermont Yankee. Let me also thank the Chair for the option to ask my question related to the presentation by VY at the meeting. I got the answer I expected to get which was no direct answer at all. Still I felt I needed to ask it.

I elected to present my comments in writing rather than speak directly to the Panel on Monday night.

To wit:

My concerns with Entergy regarding the closing of Vermont Yankee may be summed up by saying I believe it will not close in the foreseeable future because Entergy will play the litigation card to remain open indefinitely.

The only way to circumvent this action and achieve the closing and clean up of the site in a reasonable time frame, which is in the interest of the public in general, is to take the process out of the hands of the lawyers and place it directly in the lap of the bean counters. Entergy is an \$11 billion corporation. Litigation is a cost of doing business and when the books balance in favor of the company the money spent is effectively written off.

Put another way if the cost to continue operation of Vermont Yankee seriously impacts the bottom line, closing the site down becomes the direction of choice for Entergy corporate headquarters. This may be accomplished by making continued operation of the facility less and less profitable. Any and all options should be on the table to accomplish this. Increasing fees by \$100,000 has no meaning to an \$11 billion corporation. Think big!

Start with removing the option for use of the water of the Connecticut River for day-to-day operations. Thermal discharge into the river allows 105 degree water to enter the river. In Vermont, of all places in this nation, we should declare this unacceptable on the basis of impact on the environment of the river. In the news recently the temperature of river water was killing fish due to the heat wave across the nation. Allowing that same temperature to be discharged daily is unconscionable. Forcing Vermont Yankee to use the cooling towers is, as I understand it, a \$1 million a day expense. It is a start.

Allowing discharge of known contaminated water into the river should be taxed at the rate of \$1 million a day. This means that a disaster at the plant is no excuse for not paying for the damage inflicted on the state and the environment of the river, in state and throughout the rivers water shed. Short term incidents will give the incentive to 'get it fixed' instead of taking weeks or months to resolve issues that arise. Fukushima's discharge of water directly into the ocean is an example a lack of planning for what to do with the water that is outside the 'plan of action.' Make this an issue for Entergy at \$1 million a day and the willingness to continue operations may seem a little less desirable.

Pass a bill through the legislature to tax nuclear power generating stations operating in Vermont \$1 million a day if they are placed in Safestor instead of being decommissioned. The justification can be as simple as the site is lost to productive use for decades and that loss of revenue must be compensated by the company opting to use Safestor. Three or four years of this taxation along with the money in the decommissioning fund at the that time would allow the state to take over the decommissioning and radioactive waste cleanup, that the company refuses to provide directly, at no expense to the people of Vermont. Collect this tax!

Pass a bill through the legislature to tax nuclear power generating stations In Vermont for each day after the plant is closed if the plant is not actively pursuing the process of decommissioning, this would not include Safestor. This would mean electing to closed down will cost Entergy money if they do not immediately begin decommissioning. Such activity could be defined as immediate removal of all spent fuel in the pool to be worked on while the process of cooling runs its course for fuel in the reactor core. Clearly define that decommissioning money shall not be used to accomplish this unless the fund is at the expected funding level required as it would reduce the available fund for the process that 'has already started' and make further fund increases via investments profits infeasible. Removing the pool waste would be allowed to accumulate onsite only long enough for disposal to begin. No expansion of on site

storage will be allowed as the goal is to remove the waste from the site entirely. Expanding site storage for cask storage, again Safestor, is not an option unless the first mentioned bill is invoked. Again \$1 million a day sounds like a good figure for this tax also. Collect this tax!

Failure to pay in full any and all taxes would result in the mandate to immediately pay in full the projected expense of all facets of the decommissioning plus a significant percent to cover miscalculations on the actual amount needed. The excess of which would be returned to Entergy at completion of the decommissioning and radioactive waste clean up. This would not release the obligation to still pay the assessed tax. They can wait for their money for a change.

As Vermont Yankee no longer provides power to Vermont these taxes will not come from Vermont rate payers, Price increases for generated power will not be passed through to the Vermont utilities. Price increases passed through to other entities could impact profits if those entities resisted the increase or simply look else where for their power needs.

Thank you for your time and attention to my comments as presented above. And again, thank you for allowing me, just a citizen of the sate of Vermont, to effectively participate directly in the process of the board tonight.

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