

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

DOCKET NO. 6140

Investigation into the Reform of Vermont's)
Electric Power Supply)

POST TECHNICAL CONFERENCE FILING OF THE
NEW ENGLAND COALITION ON NUCLEAR POLLUTION

At the close of the technical conference conducted on October 8th, the Board asked participants to make recommendations of the next steps to be taken in this investigation. This filing constitutes the recommendations of the New England Coalition on Nuclear Pollution. The following recommendations are focused on the disposition of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station, a utility asset that supplies 25% of Vermont's power at rates acknowledged to be significantly above the prevailing rates of other power supply options and/or energy conservation options.

ASSESSMENT OF THE TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

Several filings in this docket recognized that two options exist for mitigating the costs to Vermont rate payers associated with Vermont Yankee:

1. Sell the facility, and
2. Close the facility.

No filing recommended that the continued operation of the facility by Vermont utilities would result in the kind of cost mitigation sought by the Board at this time.

Additionally, the apparent consensus of the parties present at the technical conference considered that the unique issues associated with Vermont Yankee warrant that the various cost mitigation options appropriate to this asset be investigated separately.

The New England Coalition also argued that because the disposition of this asset is substantially under the control of Green Mountain Power and Central Vermont Public Service, the

resolution of the issues associated with the two options should be given a high priority in this docket, since once the highest value approach is identified, prompt action can be taken.

Further, the New England Coalition suggested that the Board was in a unique position to facilitate the resolution of the question; Which option will provide the greatest cost savings to Vermont rate payers? by providing a formal process for investigating the outstanding issues. To date, no forum has required the utilities to carry out a dialogue with other parties who have substantial knowledge and well-articulated positions on how to save rate payers money when it comes to Vermont Yankee.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BOARD ACTION

In light of the above, the New England Coalition recommends that the Board take the following steps in regards to Vermont Yankee:

1. Convene a technical workshop (or series of workshops) where interested parties can scope out the issues associated with the two options. The intent of the workshops should be to determine which option can realistically return the highest value for Vermont rate payers and recommend necessary actions to achieve this result.
2. The Board separately investigate what -- if any -- regulatory mechanism(s) might be available to the Board to make the Vermont utility owners of Vermont Yankee financially responsible for their ongoing decision to operate the facility despite its significant excess costs compared to other options available.

Dated at Brattleboro, Vermont this 15th day of October, 1998.

Respectfully Submitted,
New England Coalition on Nuclear Pollution

By: _____
Michael J. Daley, NECNP Trustee
PO Box 545
Brattleboro, VT 05302