

“New England Coalition” (formerly New England Coalition on Nuclear Pollution)
42nd Annual Meeting
Report

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From: Howard Shaffer

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To: Distribution

Subject: New England Coalition Forty Second Annual Meeting

(formerly the New England Coalition against Nuclear Pollution)

September 28, 2013

Robert H. Gibson River Garden

Brattleboro, Vermont

Purpose: Business, and three speakers. Celebrating Vermont Yankee’s decision to cease operation at the end of 2014

The Meeting was open to the public, per the press release. Guy Page of VTEP and I had planned to attend, and not be there for the Business meeting, announced as first, in case we were not admitted. I arrived early and while the business was still in progress, and entered. Due to my years of Outreach I know, and am known, to many members. There were 26 there when I

arrived, and about a dozen more arrived later. Shortly after I arrived, Paul Blanch got there. I met him years ago in Brattleboro. He is a former Millstone employee and an anti-nuke consultant.

Business Meeting

Ned Childs, President was speaking. They

- are not stopping litigation
- are financially strapped
- work with other communities that have been “rewarded with a plant shutdown.”
- are on a mission

He remarked that he had played hockey with Bernie Buteau (VY Plant State Liaison Engineer) and he’s not a bad guy. But Bernie said at a VSNAP meeting that there could not be a tsunami at the plant, ignoring upstream dam failures.

A report by Ray Shadis, technical advisor was read.

- AEC/NRC transgressions were listed
- The NRC will not revisit VY and Pilgrim (renewed licenses) when the Waste Confidence rule is reissued. WE WILL LITIGATE
- People are inherently afraid of nuclear power
- This industry is built on a pack of lies
- Replacement of underground cables at the plant is huge. Did the NRC force it? We’ll find out from our moles in the plant.

Paul Blanch

He has just released a paper “Safety Culture is Not Possible without Regulatory Compliance” posted on the UCS website. <http://allthingsnuclear.org/nuclear-safety-culture-a-work-of-smart/>

- it may be his “Swan Song”
- Plants don’t know what regulations apply to them. They are flying blind
- In the Maine Yankee and Connecticut Yankee decommissionings and Millstone 1 SAFESTOR there were no regulations.

- If plant had to operate within the regulations they couldn't. It would be too expensive.
- NEC should contact NRC and ask which regulations apply now and which apply during Decommissioning.

Dr. Marvin Resnikoff

Member of the NEC Board.

Radioactive Waste Management Associates, Bellows Falls, VT

- gave his background
- showed a graph of long half-lives. His point: how long isotopes last (not how long they are a concern)
- Industry doesn't know everything, mentioning the proposed entombment of the Elk River plant
- West Valley plant decommissioning costs were huge. (I asked what kind of power plant it was, knowing the answer. He replied that it was a Reprocessing plant.)
- showed a BWR schematic, to locate radioactive components
- showed a BWR containment section drawing. It was not a MK I like Vermont Yankee. No one said anything.
- steel and concrete become radioactive
- in response to a question, 60 years is an arbitrary number – it (SAFESTOR) could be more or less.
- we want to push Entergy to do dismantling
- showed a Dry Cask section drawing and described air flow. A member said the Inert gas was hydrogen! It is helium. He said 5 casks at Vermont Yankee did not have leak tests done.
- decommissioning costs and history were reviewed. He pointed out that Entergy bought TLG and their estimate was then lower than the previous estimate, described as a plot by Entergy.

- in response to a question, he was confused on whether fuel is to be in or out of the pool for SAFESTOR
- Yankee (Rowe, MA) botched the job (of its decommissioning) Deb Katz knows.
- the question was asked, is Vermont Yankee the first single unit BWR merchant plant to be decommissioned?

This report refutes Dr. Resnikoff's report in radioactivity in natural gas, and says he flunked the Health Physics exam http://energyindepth.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/Marcellus_NORM_drill_cutting_response.pdf

Brice Simon

Attorney for NEC (spoke without notes or slides. Points not in the order given)

- This (the litigation) is more like a Rugby Scrum
- It is difficult to understand the impact a group like NEC has
- We will force multiple layers of appeal
- We want to hit them on the economic level any way we can
- We can take actions that the state of Vermont can't
- You can't know in one docket what effect it will have in another
- The cumulative effect (of our litigation) is part of their economic analysis
- It is too expensive to keep operating and keep litigating
- Ray (Shadis) is good at persistence. He makes extreme points. It keeps the fight going. NEC's role is to stake out a more extreme position-it "moves the goal posts."
- The PSB can still say the plant is not in the Public Good, even if the ANR grants a permit
- If the economic benefit is (found in the public good) we will argue that it is not enough.
- The economic consequences of safety issues are not preempted
- What were they weighing the economic impact against?
- What positive benefits can we extract from Entergy for operating to the end of 2014?
- The PSB doesn't trust Entergy
- The Vermont Yankee case can't be viewed in isolation. It is a sounding board on preemption. If Indian Point has an NRC license, they (Entergy thinks) can't be stopped for other reasons. (My note: he hasn't heard of the Calvert Cliff's case it seems)

- NEC is encouraged to challenge the Waste Confidence rule
- I would like NEC to take the position that VY must achieve “greenfield” by a certain date.
- I have a “gut feeling” that all concrete must be removed (i.e. all poured for the VY plant)

The meeting ended and a group picture was taken. I left and did not remain to dialogue as I usually do.

Distribution: ANS Communications Committee, Ethan Allen Institute (EAI) and EEP Director, John McClaughry EAI, Guy Page VTEP, Meghan Leahy Entergy, Andrew Hodgdon re: Yankee Rowe, Chuck Adey re: Pilgrim, ANS Northeastern Section, Bob Capstick 3 Yankees, State Representative Mike Hebert