

Deciding our energy future

Talking points

- **Problem:** Our legislators must decide whether to replace Vermont Yankee with clean, local alternatives. At stake are issues of safety, cost, reliability and the legacy we leave for our kids. But some elected leaders are being tempted to strike a deal with the plant's owners that trades our long-term safety and economy for 'cheap' power.
- **Solution:** Legislators will return to work January next year and face a series of decisions about the plant. They must use each of these decisions to move us away from our reliance on Vermont Yankee, protect the public interest, and invest in clean, safe and reliable alternatives.

Story

Vermonters face a critical decision on our energy future: Vermont Yankee, our nuclear power plant, was built in 1972 and its current license to operate expires in 2012. The plant's owner, Entergy Nuclear, has requested a new license to operate Vermont Yankee for an additional 20 years. This requires the approval of the state's Legislature, which is expected to vote on this extension request by next year.

At the same time, major investments are big made by the Obama administration in renewable energy and energy efficiency, some of which must be directed, allocated or approved by the legislature.

Choices about our energy future will be made in the next few months that shape our energy supply for generations. And Legislators will have to decide between Vermont Yankee or a clean energy future because there simply is not enough time or money to have both.

Giving Vermont Yankee a new lease on life is about more than the cost of the electricity – the plant's continued operation will stifle green job growth, and leave our kids to clean up a mess that we could have dealt with. Sooner or later, this plant will be our children's problem unless we do SOMETHING right now.

If we want to hand our kids an energy future that's clean, creates jobs, and will set them up with a future in this state, we need our legislators to act now.

Other facts to share with legislators

- Several utilities recently requested bids for 100 Megawatts of power - they got bids for over 1,000 Megawatts - the electricity is out there to replace VY today if we want to.
- In recent testimony, Entergy said they entitled to reap billions of dollars in profit from the plant, but are under no obligation to honor their promises

on decommissioning. These are not good corporate neighbors and should not be trusted.

- Vermont Yankee gives us 275 Megawatts of power. But Vermont has the capacity to generate 6,000 Megawatts from Wind, 350 Megawatts from Regional Hydro dams, 80 Megawatts from Wood Biomass, and 50 Megawatts from Methane and small wind. We DON'T NEED Vermont Yankee.
- New York, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine have begun generating over a thousand Megawatts of new wind power in the last few years – compared to zero in Vermont.
 - That's because Legislators in all these states have demanded utilities invest in clean energy alternatives instead of the dirty-old options. We can do the same thing in Vermont, but haven't yet.
- President Obama's stimulus bill includes cash incentives and targeted tax credits for new renewable energy projects started in the next 2 years. But Vermont utilities say they don't want to commit to new projects if they're going to keep getting lots of power from Vermont Yankee. We have to choose BETWEEN Vermont Yankee and a clean energy future. We can't have both.