

40 YEARS IS ENOUGH—ALLOW VERMONT YANKEE TO CLOSE ON SCHEDULE IN 2012

In 2012 Vermont Yankee will have operated for 40 years and will be at the end of its design life.

In spite of mishap after mishap, including the interstate shipping of live radioactive material on a tractor trailer bed, an inadequate crane dropping a load of spent fuel, and collapsed cooling towers, to name a few, Entergy Nuclear now wants to extend their operating license for another 20 years. In the process, they are trying to scare Vermonters into thinking that allowing Vermont Yankee to safely shut down would be bad for our economy or our environment.

But they're not telling us the whole story.

Currently, replacement power is readily available, with Vermont Yankee only providing two percent of the power in our New England regional grid, which routinely operates with a 25 percent surplus.

By fully using available efficiency measures, along with new renewable power generation, projects in New England are underway that will more than replace the electricity that VY now supplies. For example, new wind turbines in Maine totaling 150 MW will be adding green power to our New England grid when they go online in 2010. Existing hydro-electric power is also available for purchase from rivers flowing along Vermont's border, and new sources of hydro-power, wind, biomass, and geothermal are being put online in New England and Quebec that are many times larger than the total output of Vermont Yankee.

Entergy would have you believe that nuclear power is "green", with a low carbon footprint. But they don't want you to think about the fossil fuels use and environmental degradation that comes with mining, processing, shipping of uranium, and the storing and disposal of the radioactive waste that is central to their industry. And on top of this are the dangers of radioactive spills and leaks that become increasingly likely as the plant ages and decays.

The Vermont legislature must give its approval before a new certificate of public good can be granted. Vermonters are asking their town meetings to consider this important issue. Please sign the petition to put this question on the town meeting warning for March, 2009.