

Vermont Legislative Joint Fiscal Office

1 Baldwin Street • Montpelier, VT 05633-5701 • (802) 828-2295 • Fax: (802) 828-2483

ISSUE BRIEF

Revised December 22, 2010
Prepared by Catherine Benham

Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee Issues for 2011 Legislative Session

1. Shut Down – March 2012 or later?

Currently the plant does not have approval to operate past March 2012. If the legislature wants to let the plant operate beyond this date, it will have to take legislative action. In either case, the legislature may want a review of:

- a. electricity options and
- b. revenue/tax implications post-closure.

2. Follow up on public oversight panel recommendations

The Public Oversight Panel prepared two reports and developed a list of issues and recommendations for ENVY. Fairewinds Associates, under contract with the legislature, is preparing a report reviewing the response to these recommendations. This report will be delivered late November.

3. Decommissioning Fund

- a. Costs and Financing: There are various estimates of the costs of decommissioning ENVY. There have also been various studies of the financial status of the decommissioning fund. The legislature may want to investigate anticipated costs as well as the financial health of the decommissioning fund.
- b. Physical Process: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) deals with radiological issues. Once the radiological emissions are below a certain level, the NRC terminates the license. The legislature may want to review the state authority and oversight options on work that would happen after the license is terminated, perhaps converting the land back to a greenfield.

Fairewinds Associates is preparing a report on these issues. This report will be delivered early December.