Docket No. 8880

Joint Petition of NorthStar Decommissioning Holdings, LLC, NorthStar Nuclear Decommissioning Company, LLC, NorthStar Group Services, Inc., LVI Parent Corporation, Northstar Group Holdings, LLC, Entergy Nuclear Vermont Investment Company, LLC, and Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc., and any other necessary affiliated entities to transfer ownership of Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee, LLC and for certain ancillary approvals, pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §§ 107, 231, and 232

SUMMARY OF PREFILED TESTIMONY OF ROBERT SPENCER, CHAIRMAN, TOWN OF VERNON PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Mr. Spencer, as Chairman of the Town of Vernon Planning and Economic Development Commission, presents the Town of Vernon’s perspective on certain outcomes that it desires to achieve through and as a result of NorthStar’s proposed decommissioning.
STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

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PREFILED TESTIMONY OF ROBERT SPENCER, CHAIRMAN, TOWN OF VERNON PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Q1. Please state your name and occupation for the record.

A1. My name is Robert Spencer. I am the Chairman of the Town of Vernon Planning and Economic Development Commission, which has intervened in this matter.

Q2. On whose behalf are you testifying?

A2. The Town of Vernon Planning and Economic Development Commission.

Q3. What is the scope of your testimony?

A3. The Town of Vernon, as the host community for the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station, has had a long and successful relationship with the owners and operators of the Plant. Now that that relationship is coming to an end. The Town’s Planning and Economic Development Commission is a volunteer board with limited staff and a small budget, and does not have the resources at its disposal to engage in an exhaustive technical review – therefore, the Planning and Economic Development Commission is relying to a large extent
upon the expertise of the several state and federal agencies that are examining, in detail, the technical and financial aspects of NorthStar’s proposed decommissioning plan.

Nevertheless, that does not mean that the Town is disinterested in the decommissioning of the plant – quite the contrary. However, the Town’s focus is necessarily upon the health and safety of its residents during the process, and the ultimate ability of the Town to place the facility site into productive use at the end of the process.

Q4. To that end, are there specific conditions that the Planning and Economic Development Commission would like to have the Public Utility Commission impose upon an approval of the decommissioning plan?

A4. Yes. The Planning and Economic Development Commission would request that the following conditions be imposed on any approval:

1. The Site should be remediated as to all contaminants, not just radioactive, to support use of the property without limitation (i.e. unrestricted residential), per all relevant and appropriate Vermont site restoration standards. If any portion of the site is to be remediated to allow for some other level of end use, such as commercial or industrial, the Town would request that it have meaningful input on what areas of the site might be best suited for which uses, and to ensure consistency with its Town Plan.

2. The Town does not wish to have the site returned to a natural state, or otherwise restricted for conservation purposes unless, as stated above, the Town is provided the opportunity for meaningful input on which portions of the site might be appropriate for such restriction.
3. The Town desires to have the option to acquire the historic “Governor Hunt House” property for $1.00, free and clear of any use restrictions, legal encumbrances, or contamination. This structure represents a vital part of the Town’s history.

4. Reimbursement of the Town’s reasonable legal and expert witness fees incurred to participate in this proceeding.

5. During the time of its operations in Vernon, NorthStar will become a partner with the Town in developing its visions for the future of the Town, including without limitation the Town Plan.

6. Reimbursement for increased costs incurred by the Town due to the decommissioning process (for example, increased need for police or fire department personnel, services or equipment; and increased costs relating to road repairs caused by heavy equipment and increased truck traffic).

7. Extend the term of and/or renegotiate the current tax stabilization agreement, at a comparable funding level, for the duration of the decommissioning.

8. NorthStar will facilitate access across its properties for possible public future riverfront access and recreation purposes.

9. NorthStar shall give consideration to local business, services and resources for use in decommissioning projects.

10. The Town desires to have the option to acquire or use the following critical infrastructure important to the Town for redevelopment purposes:

    • Office buildings on the property

    • Existing septic fields
• Existing wells
• Existing rail spurs and rail buildings
• Existing roads and parking areas.
• Access to the power line running from the hydro plant
• Access to VELCO connection at the switchyard

11. The Town desires to have the option to acquire and preserve artifacts from the plant demonstrating the site’s history.

Q5. Have other intervenors in this process expressed opinions that run counter to the goals, desires or interests of the Planning and Economic Development Commission and the Town, as you understand them to be?

A5. Yes. For example, it is my understanding that the New England Coalition suggests that the site should be designated as an undeveloped nature preserve with no re-use at all. We strongly object to such a proposal. The site is located in the heart of the Town, with access to significant energy and other infrastructure and a long history of use that could provide valuable economic benefits in terms of tax base support and employment.

Q6. Does that conclude your testimony at this time?

A6. Yes.