

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

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.

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

- 1 Q1. Please state your name and occupation for the record.
- 2 A1. My name is Robert Spencer. I am the Chairman of the Town of Vernon Planning and
3 Economic Development Commission, which has intervened in this matter.
- 4 Q2. On whose behalf are you testifying?
- 5 A2. The Town of Vernon Planning and Economic Development Commission.
- 6 Q3. What is the scope of your testimony?
- 7 A3. The Town of Vernon, as the host community for the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power
8 Station, has had a long and successful relationship with the owners and operators of the
9 Plant. Now that that relationship is coming to an end. The Town’s Planning and Economic
10 Development Commission is a volunteer board with limited staff and a small budget, and
11 does not have the resources at its disposal to engage in an exhaustive technical review –
12 therefore, the Planning and Economic Development Commission is relying to a large extent

1 upon the expertise of the several state and federal agencies that are examining, in detail,
2 the technical and financial aspects of NorthStar's proposed decommissioning plan.

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

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

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

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

19 2. The Town does not wish to have the site returned to a natural state, or otherwise
20 restricted for conservation purposes unless, as stated above, the Town is provided
21 the opportunity for meaningful input on which portions of the site might be
22 appropriate for such restriction.

- 1 3. The Town desires to have the option to acquire the historic “Governor Hunt House”
2 property for \$1.00, free and clear of any use restrictions, legal encumbrances, or
3 contamination. This structure represents a vital part of the Town’s history.
- 4 4. Reimbursement of the Town’s reasonable legal and expert witness fees incurred to
5 participate in this proceeding.
- 6 5. During the time of its operations in Vernon, NorthStar will become a partner with
7 the Town in developing its visions for the future of the Town, including without
8 limitation the Town Plan.
- 9 6. Reimbursement for increased costs incurred by the Town due to the
10 decommissioning process (for example, increased need for police or fire
11 department personnel, services or equipment; and increased costs relating to road
12 repairs caused by heavy equipment and increased truck traffic).
- 13 7. Extend the term of and/or renegotiate the current tax stabilization agreement, at a
14 comparable funding level, for the duration of the decommissioning.
- 15 8. NorthStar will facilitate access across its properties for possible public future
16 riverfront access and recreation purposes.
- 17 9. NorthStar shall give consideration to local business, services and resources for use
18 in decommissioning projects.
- 19 10. The Town desires to have the option to acquire or use the following critical
20 infrastructure important to the Town for redevelopment purposes:
21
 - Office buildings on the property
 - Existing septic fields
- 22

- 1 • Existing wells
- 2 • Existing rail spurs and rail buildings
- 3 • Existing roads and parking areas.
- 4 • Access to the power line running from the hydro plant
- 5 • Access to VELCO connection at the switchyard

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

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

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

16 Q6. Does that conclude your testimony at this time?

17 A6. Yes.