## **STATE OF VERMONT**

## PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Joint Petition of NorthStar Decommissioning	)	
Holdings, LLC, NorthStar Nuclear		
Decommissioning Company, LLC, NorthStar	)	
Group Services, Inc., LVI Parent Corp.,	,	
NorthStar Group Holdings, LLC, Entergy	)	
Nuclear Vermont Investment Company, LLC,	`	Docket No. 8880
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	)	

## JOINT PETITIONERS' RESPONSE TO STATE PARTIES' "JOINT MOTION TO CONTINUE EVIDENTIARY HEARINGS"

NorthStar Decommissioning Holdings, LLC, NorthStar Nuclear Decommissioning Company, LLC, NorthStar Group Services, Inc., LVI Parent Corp., 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 (together, "Joint Petitioners"), by their Attorneys, respectfully file this response to the "Joint Motion To Continue Evidentiary Hearings" filed late yesterday afternoon by the Department of Public Service, Agency of Natural Resources, and Attorney General's Office ("State Parties").

Joint Petitioners respectfully oppose the State Parties' motion. While it would be improper for Joint Petitioners to disclose to the Commission the content of any ongoing settlement negotiations, Joint Petitioners can advise the Commission that the parties have not yet arrived at mutually agreeable settlement terms. Joint Petitioners are not insensitive to the desire expressed by the State Parties, and apparently also by certain other parties, to focus on settlement negotiations without having to prepare for the technical hearings scheduled to begin on January 22, 2018. However, because the State Parties' motion does not propose alternate dates that would enable the Commission to issue a decision in this Docket by this Spring, the motion increases the risk that a decision would not be rendered in sufficient time for any appeals to be exhausted such that the transaction can close by December 31, 2018, the target closing date and the date by which the licenses issued by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission ("NRC") for the Vermont Yankee site must be transferred to NorthStar, if the NRC grants Joint Petitioners' license transfer request.

Joint Petitioners respectfully submit that the better course would be to keep the second week of already-scheduled technical hearing (to begin January 29, 2018) on calendar, and for the Commission to advise the parties concerning which subsequent days in February on which the Commission is available to continue and to complete the hearing. By taking the first week of technical hearing off the calendar, while leaving the second week on calendar, the parties would have some "breathing room" to continue settlement negotiations, but an actual and proximate hearing date would remain available in the event those negotiations break down.

As for the already-noticed public hearing currently scheduled for January 18, 2018, Joint Petitioners propose that it be kept on schedule, or alternatively a new notice be issued on January 17, 2018, for a public hearing to be held on January 29, 2018. In that event, the Commission could hold a pre-hearing conference for the technical hearing on January 26, 2018, hold the public hearing on January 29, 2018, and commence the technical hearing on January 30, 2018.

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