

Vermont Yankee

Plant decommissioning and site restoration of Vermont Yankee will be accelerated by decades under an agreement that Entergy has made to sell the closed nuclear power plant, the company announced on November 8. Entergy intends to sell the plant and transfer its licenses to subsidiaries of NorthStar Group Services, a New York-based decontamination and decommissioning contractor, by the end of 2018. NorthStar also will assume Vermont Yankee's decommissioning trust fund, reported to be currently valued at about \$575 million, as well as its obligations for spent nuclear fuel management and decommissioning.

As outlined in its Post Shutdown Decommissioning Activities Report filed with the NRC in December 2014, Entergy placed the reactor in safe storage (SAFSTOR) to allow the level of radioactivity to decrease by natural decay and provide time for the decommissioning fund to grow enough to cover the estimated \$1.243-billion D&D cost. The company expected to begin D&D work in 2068, with a projected completion of both decommissioning and site restoration by 2075.

Under the agreement with Entergy, NorthStar is to start the D&D work by 2021 and complete the decommissioning and restoration of the Vermont Yankee site, with the exclusion of the plant's independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI), by 2030. NorthStar will continue to operate and maintain the ISFSI until the Department of Energy fulfills its obligation to



Entergy has agreed to sell the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant to the NorthStar Group for early decommissioning. (Photo: Entergy)

remove all of the spent nuclear fuel from Vermont Yankee, after which the company will then decommission the ISFSI, terminate the NRC license, and complete site restoration, according to Entergy.

NorthStar will perform the work through a subsidiary with partners Areva, Waste Control Specialists (WCS), and Burns & McDonnell. Areva will be responsible for reactor vessel and internals segmentation and spent fuel management support,



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