



Find out more and sign up: ConnectingCommuters.org



- Home
- Invite
- Outdoors
- News
- Entertainment
- Photos & Video
- Blogs
- Calendar
- Classifieds
- Shopping
- Advertising Info
- Publications

[HOME](#) >> [TOP NEWS](#)

[Print](#) [Email](#)

Published February 24, 2010 in the [Times Argus](#)

Nuclear workers clash with business group opposing Yankee relicensing

By DANIEL BARLOW Vermont Press Bureau

MONTPELIER – The political debate over the future of the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant heated up Tuesday as nuclear workers clashed verbally with renewable energy supporters at the Statehouse.

About 50 Vermont Yankee workers showed up at the Statehouse Tuesday to urge lawmakers to delay a Senate vote scheduled for Wednesday on the future of the troubled nuclear reactor in Vernon.

But sparks flew when several of the Entergy employees crashed a press conference held by the organization Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility, which opposes the relicensing of the plant.

Vermont Yankee workers began yelling out questions and comments at the speakers, resulting in a heated exchange on the benefits and fallbacks of nuclear power and renewable sources such as wind and solar – all before a crowd of cameras and reporters.

"I hate how this debate has become wind versus nuclear," said Vedranal Wren, an operator at Vermont Yankee who lives in Brattleboro. "I want both."

The verbal battle interrupted the end of a press conference where progressive business groups made the case for shutting down Vermont Yankee as an economic jumpstart for the state. Executives from several companies said shutting the door on nuclear power will improve the green brand of the state.

"We appreciate that the Vermont brand is our most precious asset," said Will Patten, the executive director of VBSR. "Vermont Yankee tarnishes to our brand. Twenty more years of operation is a threat to our future."

Don Mayer, the owner of Small Dog Electronics, said it is time for the Legislature to vote on Vermont Yankee to send a clear signal to the rest of the state that Vermont's energy portfolio is shifting away from nuclear power to green renewables.

He expressed particular disgust at Entergy's proposal to sell Vermont Yankee and five other nuclear power plants to a spinoff company called Enexus.

"I'd love to take all my unappreciated assets and put them in a shell company where I wouldn't have to worry about them," he said. "But that would probably be unethical."

Tuesday's press conference – one day before the Vermont Senate is scheduled to vote on the future of the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant – came one day after other business groups made the case for nuclear power at a Statehouse press conference.

Earlier in the morning, the group Toxics Action held a press conference outside of the Statehouse calling for Vermont Yankee to close in 2012. Volunteers with the group held giant yellow signs on the Statehouse lawn signifying each tritium monitoring well at Vermont Yankee.

Jessica Edgerly, a community organizer for the group, said the plant has a history of alarming problems – including the 2007 cooling tower collapse and the 2008 cracks in the steam dryer – and "poor explanations and empty assurances" won't wash those away.

"They've used up all of their do-overs and time-outs," she said.

Daniel.Barlow@timesargus.com



[+ ENLARGE IMAGE](#)

Vermont Yankee employee John Shoufter of Fitzmillier, N.H., bends the ear of Sen. Doug Racine, D-Chittenden, as he and about 50 other Yankee employees circulated Tuesday in the Statehouse prior to today's scheduled Senate vote on Yankee relicensing.

Photo: Stefan Hard/Times Argus



[Save gas money](#)
[Reduce vehicle wear](#)
[Help the environment](#)

Find out more and sign up:
ConnectingCommuters.org

Vermont Blogs

- [Black River Today](#)
- [Editor's Blog](#)
- [Out and About](#)
- [Outdoors Vermont](#)
- [To Do List](#)
- [On Deck](#)
- [Vermont View](#)
- [Writing on the Hall](#)

[Vermont Danby Marble](#)

Dimensional, Slabs and Tile America's Premier Quarry
www.vermontquarries.com

[Dr. Oz's Free Test](#)

Millions have already taken this amazing test. What's your RealAge?
RealAge.com

[Tell Congress](#)

Stop A Taxpayer Bailout of Nuclear Power Corporations
org2.democracyinaction.org/o/5502/p

[Nuclear Energy Investing](#)

A few nuclear energy companies stand to make a killing. New rpt.
EnergyAndCapital.com/Nuclear

Flying Solo with Sex Robots: Five Gifts to Buy Yourself this Valentine's Day

February 14, 2010 by Ichiazzo

1 Comment



Sure you're broke friends are having sex with actual "real" women right now, but their pockets are empty while in 2 minutes they'll be done (and that's being gracious) and you'll still have a "wad" (pun intended) of cash. Here's are five ideas to blow your . . .never mind. Too graphic. here's five ways to "Spend yer dough"

5) Chill Pill Audio Speakers

Small Dog Electronics says, "Amplify Your Life!" These self-powered mini speakers produce big sound and work directly with iPhones without any adapters. They charge via USB, a very cool feature, no extra power cables or plugs required. Retract back shielded cables keep the design and your desk clean, and static to a minimum. Take them traveling, camping, or kicking it on the back porch. Listening to music in the office or at school. Sharing audiobooks or podcasts. Providing music or narration for Keynote, PowerPoint, and other presentations. The Chill Pill is enclosed in a rugged, matte-black case that protects the speakers, batteries and retractable cables. Speakers magnetically click together for easy transport. When stowed in travel mode, the Chill Pill is only 2" x 4". Perfect for desks with limited space. Small enough to bring anywhere! [Buy them here.](#)



4) **Grenen® Stainless Steel Mesh Watch – Charcoal**
If you like to have a good time, you need a good watch. For \$50 bucks this stainless steel mesh watch by Grenen is a lot of sex on your wrist, which makes it the perfect "Flying Solo" valentine's day gift. A charcoal sunray dial with silver-tone indexes and date display complete the look. The Mesh strap is the real eye catcher and can be adjusted to provide a custom fit, and best of all it's water – and all other liquids – resistant. Treat yourself at Kohl's or at the [Kohl's Website Here.](#)

3) Homedics Massage

Products

It's certainly no Sex Robot, but for \$149 **Homedics Extended Track Shiatsu Massaging Cushion** offers a full massage that reaches all the way up to your shoulders (but no happy ending unless you consider the electric bill happy.) There's even an extra vibration massage option should yo take it to work a find the sexy temp is a nymphomaniac exhibitionist – hey a guy can dream. Also features, Quick heat (For a more relaxing massage), Spot Shiatsu (holds the massage action just where you need it), a built-in carry bag for easy storage and portability, and Programmable control with 6 programs. [Check out the full line of Homedics products here including their neck and foot massage items.](#)



2) Shred Sled



The simple fact is that skateboarding is simply not dangerous enough. If you want to be in a horrific accident worthy of Steve Austin and 6 million bucks worth of bionic replacements you're going to need a bit more "Oomph" than something 70 years old can deliver (Granny porn aside.) **That's where the Shred Sled comes in!** This thing is awesome! The most fun you can have with your clothes on



Tailor James Won The Genetic Lottery



Boobs, Beer, and Baubles



Just in Time for President's Day! Anti-Obama Outerwear!



The Second Stimulus: A Secret Stimulus?



The 10 Hottest Girls Of The 2010 Winter Olympics



COED MAGAZINE ON DIGG

POPULAR

UPCOMING

187



THE WORST FITNESS GIZMOS . . . EVER

281



THE 8 MOST HILARIOUS TRACY MORGAN TELEVISION MOMENTS

769



SOUTH PARK'S MINORITIES IN MY WATERPARK (VIDEO & LYRICS)

2119



JON STEWART PWND IN NYC THIS MORNING [PHOTO]

1524



THE 5 BIGGEST MARIJUANA MYTHS DEBUNKED

BuzzFeed



Robert Pattinson Is Allergic To



LARP: Live Avatar Role



Andrey Ternovskiy of



The 10 Best Movie Presidents Of

Add BuzzFeed to Your Site

Via BuzzFeed