



**INTERNATIONAL
BROTHERHOOD
OF ELECTRICAL
WORKERS.**

900 Seventh Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
202.833.7000
<http://www.ibew.org>

EDWIN D. HILL
International President

LINDELL K. LEE
International
Secretary-Treasurer

May 6, 2009

Senator Peter Shumlin
Speaker Shap Smith
Vermont State House
Montpelier, VT 05602

Dear Senator Shumlin and Representative Smith:

On behalf of the approximately 725,000 members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), I strongly urge the Vermont Legislature to reject any measure that requires the Vermont Yankee Power Plant to pay millions more in cash or credit guarantees toward decommission funding.

Currently, the Vermont Legislature is considering a bill, HB 436, which would require Vermont Yankee to "top-off" the plant's decommissioning fund. If adopted, this proposal would jeopardize access to reasonably priced green power for consumers and threaten the livelihoods of Vermont's working families, including IBEW members. Jobs at Vermont Yankee provide a solid middle-class living, with health care and pension benefits for hundreds of hard-working families.

More than ever, our economy is in desperate need of two things – jobs and access to reasonably priced, carbon free, domestically produced energy. Both are provided by Vermont Yankee. In fact, this generating facility currently produces one-third of Vermont's electrical supply at a very reasonable cost of 4.2 cents per kilowatt-hour.

In addition to its permanent workforce of 650 workers, Vermont Yankee provides temporary employment to more than 1100 trades-people during refueling outages which occur every 18 months. These too, pay middle-class wages and last up to 30 days. For the State of Vermont and members of our union, this plant is a foundation for job stability in the area.

The IBEW represents workers at two thirds of our nation's nuclear fleet; the same fleet that is currently responsible for 70 percent of our nation's green electricity generation. If enacted, the proposed legislation will have an adverse effect on consumers, workers, and the environment.

Finally, this bill is unnecessary as Federal law already provides the Nuclear Regulatory Commission with authority to ensure the funds necessary to decommission all 104 U.S. nuclear generating plants.

For all these reasons, I strongly urge the Vermont Legislature reject HB 436.

Sincerely yours,

Edwin D. Hill
International President

EDH:lgd

Copy to Members of the Vermont State Senate and Vermont House of Representatives
Vermont Governor's Office
U.S. Senators Patrick Leahy and Bernie Sanders
U.S. Representative Peter Welch
Frank J. Carroll, International Vice President, IBEW Second District