



Nuclear Plant Decommissioning Act of 2025

Led in the Senate by: Senators Peter Welch (D-Vt.); Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.); Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.); Ed Markey (D-Mass.)

Introduced in the House by: Representative Becca Balint (Vt-At-Large)

Background: The process of hosting and decommissioning a nuclear plant is consequential for both the operator of the plant and the surrounding community. When a post-shutdown plan is first proposed or later revised, it is essential for those most impacted to have input on these plans. However, under current regulations, states and host communities are not guaranteed a say in the development and implementation of shutdown plans for nuclear plants. As a result, shutdown plans may not accurately capture all potential environmental and economic impacts in host communities.

For example, the closure and subsequent transfer of the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant inflicted far-reaching environmental and economic impacts in Vermont and surrounding states, including revenue and job loss, and decreased traffic to local businesses. Allowing communities and affected states an opportunity to weigh in on proposed shutdown, license transfer, or other significant changes to the decommissioning plan will better reflect the environmental and regional impacts of closing a nuclear power plant.

Legislation: The *Nuclear Plant Decommissioning Act of 2025* will make important reforms to the decommissioning process to give states a meaningful role in the development and approval of reactor shutdown plans and post-shutdown license transfers. The legislation also provides new support for Community Advisory Boards and economic development in host communities throughout the decommissioning process.

Specifically, the bill would:

- Require plant licensees to solicit input from host communities and state governments while developing shutdown plans and prior to post-shutdown license transfers.
- Create new grant programs to support the work of Community Advisory Boards for decommissioning and economic recovery activities.
- Expand existing grant programs to provide assistance to communities hosting stranded nuclear waste from a decommissioned plant.
- Establish economic recovery accounts to be used by host communities for economic development and recovery projects. These accounts are funded by nuclear plant licensees through decommissioning trusts.

Supporting Organizations: The *Nuclear Plant Decommissioning Act of 2025* is endorsed by the Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation.