SGA Senate to Deliberate on Vermont Yankee Re-Licensing

This Tuesday, February 16th, the University of Vermont Student Government Association will deliberate the vote on a resolution titled: Resolution Supporting The Responsible Closure Of Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant In 2012, which supports the decommissioning of the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant. The resolution comes in light of recent developments reported in several Vermont media outlets, reporting high levels of radioactive tritium in groundwater monitoring well samples surrounding the plant. Studies have shown that tritium is a toxic substance when introduced into the human body at the right levels.

Proponents of relicensing VY cite it as an important source of jobs in a country where the unemployment rate has recently exceeded ten percent. Opponents of the VY relicensing say that the nuclear power plant will be required to exceed its electricity-producing capacity should it be allowed to continue operation. Others explain that it is important to use the decommissioning of the plant as an important opportunity to create a more diverse and renewable energy future and have proposed wind, solar, and water projects to in part replace the existing nuclear power plant.
The resolution is being brought forth by the Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Environmental Ethics (CODEEE). Senators David Maciewicz, Chair of CODEEE, Tyler Wilkinson-Ray, Chair of the Committee on Student Action, and CODEEE member, Mikayla McDonald are signers of the resolution. Chair Maciewicz explained that this issue is important to the SGA and Vermont because “if Vermont wants to keep and recruit the next generation of green thinkers, it needs to lead in clean and safe renewable energy. Vermont Yankee, and nuclear power in general, has not, does not, and will not ever fit this future."

The meeting will take place this Tuesday, February 16th at 7:00pm in the Livak Ballroom (fourth floor of the Davis Center) at the University of Vermont. Students and community members are encouraged to attend.