

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lt. Governor Phil Scott Issues Statement on the Closing of Vermont Yankee

Montpelier, VT - Today's announcement from Entergy Nuclear that they plan to close the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant in 2014 is a devastating blow to the plant's 600-plus employees, their families and the Windham County economy.

High-paying jobs are few and far between in Vermont; we now run the risk of seeing many highly skilled employees who work at Vermont Yankee leave our state. Job loss numbers as high as predicted in this situation are not anything a region can plan for.

The contribution Vermont Yankee employees, contractors and the plant itself make to the local economy cannot be understated; in that light, we must commit ourselves to helping Windham County fill what soon could be a gaping economic hole. I plan to work closely with the legislature and Administration to develop a strategy to help those displaced employees find work as well as producing an economic development plan for Windham County.

Vermont leaders must learn from this: It is more important than ever that we dedicate ourselves to finding ways to grow our economy, keep existing high-paying jobs in our state and also attract new ones, thus creating the foundation for a bright future for Vermonters.