

Vt. Yankee condenser woes force cut in power

By SUSAN SMALLHEER
Rutland Herald

BRATTLEBORO — The Vermont Yankee nuclear plant is again operating at reduced power, and has been ever since its 40th anniversary last week, because of continuing problems with its condenser, according to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The plant was at 94 percent

power Monday morning and records on file with the NRC show that ever since last Wednesday, the plant has slowly been reducing power after a short period at 100 percent.

NRC spokesman Neil Sheehan said Entergy had installed another air injector in the condenser to help Vermont Yankee go back up to 100 percent power. But he said the reactor was again at

reduced power to help Entergy engineers troubleshoot exactly what was the stubborn problem involving the condenser.

"The company is continuing to work on the condenser issues. An area of focus remains removal of the plastic coating in an effort to improve the reduction in vacuum," said Sheehan in an email. Entergy Nuclear spokesman Larry Smith declined to comment

about the most recent problem with the condenser. He said the delay was for "proprietary reasons" but declined to elaborate.

Arnie Gundersen, a nuclear engineer and consultant with Fairewinds Associates of Burlington, and a critic of Entergy Nuclear, said he expected Entergy was in negotiations with ISO-New England, the nonprofit firm

that manages the New England power grid, to reduce power.

"I think they will want to cut power to 50 percent, take half the condenser off-line and fix it," said Gundersen, who has been following issues surrounding the condenser since 2004, and has testified before the Vermont Public Service Board about its condition.

One solution to the leaking problem in the copper tubes in the condenser is to strip off the epoxy coating the company applied last October during its last refueling and maintenance outage.

Earlier this month, Sheehan said that removing the epoxy was one solution under active consideration.

See POWER Page C3

SPRING IN THEIR STEPS



Recorder file photo

Our Lady of Czestochowa Church had a float in last year's Spring Parade in Turners Falls.

Spring Parade in Turners April 14

By CHRIS CURTIS
Recorder Staff

TURNERS FALLS — Spring is here, and the organizers of the Franklin County Spring Parade are looking forward to a second year of celebrating the change in season.

Organizer Michael Nelson said the parade began last year to celebrate the "light at the end of the tunnel" following an interminable winter.

"This year, of course, it's a little less necessary for that reason; obviously, we're having gorgeous weather," Nelson said, but he added that's no reason not to celebrate.

Nelson, of Montague, is also the organizing force behind the Franklin County Pumpkifest, now looking ahead to its third year, and the last five Franklin County Fair parades.

This year's parade will also afford a second opportunity to celebrate Mardi Gras, selected as the parade theme this year by organizers.

The first parade last year saw about 45

■ Those wishing to participate in the parade must preregister by contacting organizer Michael Nelson at 522-0712 or michaelnelsonmba@aol.com.

entries from groups and businesses, and Nelson said work has begun on some of the floats for this year's parade.

Leading the parade will be retired Montague Police Chief Raymond J. Zukowski Jr., better known as Ray.

Nelson called Zukowski a perfect choice for grand marshal.

Nelson said Zukowski has helped to turn the town around and has been very supportive of the variety of festivals and events that have launched in Montague in recent years.

"It's really great to have a town that's so easy to work with, and he's a huge part of that," Nelson said.

The parade will take place April 14 "on the hill" in Turners Falls. It will make a three-mile loop, beginning at 1 p.m. at the Sheffield building of the Montague Elementary School on Crocker Avenue.

The parade will take a left onto Montague Street, travel to the end, and turn left onto Turnpike Road, passing Turners Falls High School before taking a left onto Millers Falls Road and a final left onto High Street to end at Sheffield.

Nelson recommended the lawn in front of the high school as an ideal location with parking and open space for those who do not live along the route.

Those wishing to participate in the parade must preregister by contacting Nelson at 522-0712 or michaelnelsonmba@aol.com.

Registration is free but a small donation is requested to help cover the parade's overhead costs, Nelson said.

You can reach Chris Curtis at: ccurtis@recorder.com or 413-772-0261, ext. 257

Deerfield police chief to leave job April 20

He will start working with interim chief starting on Monday

By DAVID COFFEY
Recorder Staff

DEERFIELD — Police Chief Michael Wozniakewicz will retire next month after 18 years at the helm of local law enforcement.

"He's been a mentor and a trainer and a good guy across the board," selectmen's Chairman Mark Gilmore said. "He's worked through some very hard dynamics and he's done an excellent job for us."

Wozniakewicz has served 36 years in law enforcement, first in Sunderland, then at the University of Massachusetts before joining the Deerfield Police Department in 1982, where he has spent the last 18 years as chief.

The chief on Tuesday praised the community and said he has had a great career.

Selectman Carolyn Shores Ness said, "I think one of the things that has always been wonderful is that we could always count on him when we had our emergencies. The chief was always so conscientious and we could always count on him to make sure people were safe."

"He's just a lovely, friendly person to deal with and still manages to be very effective," added Beth Clarke.

Wozniakewicz will start working with officer Michael Krusiewski on April 2, who will serve as interim chief starting on April 20.

The selectmen have not yet settled on a process for filling the post permanently, according to Town Administrator Bernie Kubiak.

■ Police Chief Michael Wozniakewicz has served 36 years in law enforcement, first in Sunderland, then at the University of Massachusetts before joining the Deerfield Police Department in 1982, where he has spent the last 18 years as chief.

Montague soon to have title for former Cumberland Farms

Building needs roof repair, mold removal

By CHRIS CURTIS
Recorder Staff

TURNERS FALLS — The moldering former Cumberland Farms building at 38 Avenue A may soon see some form of activity after years in limbo.

Montague Economic Development and Industrial Corp. Chairman Andrew Killeen said his group has been told the state is transferring title to the property to the town agency.

The EDIC is charged with promoting local economic development projects and has for years managed the property that originally was taken for use in a Heritage State Park that was never built but instead morphed into the current Great Falls Discovery Center.

Killeen said the EDIC has managed the property since

1986 and, with the title, can now decide what to do with it.

The town of Montague took the property by eminent domain in 1985 with the intention of turning it over to the Division of Conservation and Recreation as part of the Discovery Center. The DCR holds the title, but never incorporated the property into the Discovery Center.

The property has been largely unused since, although Killeen said it has seen use as a space for artists.

Killeen said the town has wanted to do something with the building for the past couple years, but has been

blocked by lack of a title.

Killeen said he expects to have the title in two weeks.

Killeen brought the issue to the Board of Selectmen Monday for guidance on what to do with the building once the title is cleared up and how to deal with an order from the building inspector to remediate a serious mold problem and to repair the roof.

The EDIC does not have the money to comply with the order, Killeen said, "given that our checking account is hovering somewhere north or south of \$100."

Town Planner Walter Ramsey said the roof, patched and re-patched over the years,

■ Montague Economic Development and Industrial Corp. Chairman Andrew Killeen said the town has wanted to do something with the building for the past couple years, but has been blocked by lack of a title.



Recorder/Peter MacDonald

The town of Montague took the property by eminent domain in 1985 with the intention of turning it over to the Division of Conservation and Recreation as part of the Discovery Center. The DCR holds the title, but never incorporated the property into the Discovery Center.

is leaking badly enough that mold has taken over the building.

Ramsey said a request went out this week for bids to clear the mold and patch the roof or to demolish the building.

Ramsey said both options are provided for "so the town can make an even-keeled decision."

Michael Muller of the Montague Community Cable Inc. board, said the cable board is still interested in the building and has the money

now to move in.

MCTV proposes using the building with some space set aside for a welcome center as well as office space for RiverCulture Director Lisa Davol.

Muller said a local contractor had given a quote of \$7,000 to strip the interior to the brick, and said replacing the rubber membrane of the roof should run to \$9,000 or \$10,000.

"We have the money to do that if someone will let us do

that," Muller said.

Muller said MCTV is interested in the building whether it is granted to them, rented or sold.

Muller opposed the demolition option, predicting the lot would remain undeveloped if the building were removed.

The selectmen elected to revisit the issue at a later meeting once the title is in hand.

You can reach Chris Curtis at: ccurtis@recorder.com or 413-772-0261, ext. 257