

# Varying reports on closing date for Vermont Yankee

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Rutland Herald

BRATTLEBORO — Entergy Corp. plans to permanently shut down the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant in Vernon, Vt., on Dec. 29, a manager said recently.

Michael McKenney, Vermont Yankee's emergency preparedness manager, revealed the date Friday in a state meeting in Vernon with towns in the nuclear plant's emergency evacuation zone.

Entergy spokesman Robert Williams was less precise Tuesday.

"We have a commitment in the settlement agreement to shut down by the end of the year," he said in an email. "We are making internal plans consistent with that commitment, and currently assume the final downpower a short period before New Year's Eve."

He said, "We may adjust the precise date as we factor in the many scheduling priorities for safe shutdown."

Entergy had last year described its shutdown date as "late in the fourth quarter," of 2014 and then refined that to "late in December." But the company had been vague about how long it could continue operating with the nuclear fuel remaining in the reactor core.

Entergy spokesman Martin Cohn told The Sentinel

Tuesday that the plant is making arrangements to close by the end of the year, but that a specific date had not been set.

Erica Bornemann, planning section chief for the state's Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, said the meeting Friday was called to discuss the emergency planning budget.

— *The Sentinel contributed to this report.*