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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NRC STAFF TERMINATES SHOREHAM LICENSE;
AUTHORIZES RELEASE OF SITE

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued an order terminating the license of the Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) to possess the former Shoreham nuclear power plant on the north shore of Long Island, New York. The agency also has concluded that, from the standpoint of radioactive contamination, the site can be released for unrestricted use.

The action marked the completion of a decommissioning effort which was begun in June 1992 following approval of LIPA's decommissioning plan by the staff.

As part of this effort, internal components from the reactor pressure vessel, portions of the vessel itself and the steel-lined, concrete reactor bioshield wall as well as contaminated piping and equipment were packaged and shipped off site for volume reduction, burial or both.

The slightly irradiated nuclear fuel, consisting of 560 fuel bundles, was purchased by Philadelphia Electric Company for reuse at its Limerick nuclear power plant near Pottstown, Pennsylvania. The transfer involved 33 shipments of fuel between September 1993 and June 1994.

The results of the decommissioning effort were documented in the Shoreham Decommissioning Project Termination Survey final report which was reviewed by the NRC staff. In addition, a NRC contractor, Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education, conducted a series of independent, confirmatory radiological surveys during four visits to the Shoreham site from February 1993 to November 1994.

The staff's review and the independent surveys confirmed that LIPA's final survey report accurately portrays the residual levels of radioactivity remaining at the facility and that the levels meet the unrestricted use criteria established in the NRC's 1992 decommissioning order.

The Shoreham nuclear power plant, a boiling water reactor, was built by Long Island Lighting Company and achieved initial criticality in February 1985. A license authorizing operations

at levels not to exceed five percent of full power was issued by the NRC staff in July of that year and, after intermittent testing at low power levels over a period of about two years, the facility was shut down in June 1987.

In February 1989, Long Island Lighting reached an agreement with the State of New York to transfer its Shoreham assets to LIPA for decommissioning; however, the utility continued to pursue its application to the NRC for a full power operating license which was issued in April of that year.

The operating license was amended by the NRC staff in June 1991 to remove the authority to operate the Shoreham facility and, in February 1992, the staff approved the transfer of the possession only license to LIPA.

Under the terms of the order terminating the license, any person adversely affected by it may request a hearing within 20 days. Hearing requests should be directed to the Secretary of the Commission, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D. C. 20555-0001, Attention: Docketing and Service Branch.

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