

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
Region III Office of Public Affairs
801 Warrenville Road, Lisle, IL 60532-4351

NEWS ANNOUNCEMENT: RIII-98-22 April 3, 1998
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NRC STAFF TO MEET WITH PUBLIC TO DISCUSS
FUTURE FERMI DECOMMISSIONING ACTIVITIES

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will hold a public meeting on April 22 to discuss the future decommissioning plans of Unit 1 of the Fermi Nuclear Power Station. The two-unit plant is located in Monroe, Michigan.

Unit 1, which permanently shut down in 1972, is in long-term storage. Its fuel was shipped from the site in 1973. Detroit Edison Co., operator of the plant, currently plans to dismantle Unit 1 when Unit 2's operating license expires in 2025.

The meeting will be at 7 p.m. in the Monroe County Court House, Commission's Meeting Room, 125 East Second Street, Monroe, Michigan.

The program will include presentations by the NRC on the decommissioning regulatory process and by Detroit Edison on the status of decommissioning activities. A question and answer period will follow.

Fermi Unit 1 began operating in 1963. It was an experimental sodium-cooled fast breeder reactor that was owned and operated by a consortium of public utilities and equipment manufacturers with Detroit Edison as the leader of the project.

Non-radiological work now under way at Unit 1 includes the removal of asbestos that currently surrounds the equipment.

Under NRC decommissioning regulations, utilities are permitted to immediately dismantle the plant or to place it in safe storage for a period of time before dismantlement, provided certain regulations are met.

Two years before it is ready to terminate Unit 1's license, Detroit Edison is required to submit a final plan to NRC. This plan, among other things, must describe any remaining radioactivity on the site, the final radiation survey details and the site's planned end-use. NRC will hold a public meeting near

the plant to discuss the utility's plans and receive public comments. There is also an opportunity for a public hearing regarding the utility's license termination plans.

NRC is currently conducting inspections at Unit 1 and will continue to do so during the decommissioning process. The agency will also independently evaluate the radiological condition of the plant site during the final phase.

In December of last year, Detroit Edison submitted to the NRC a Safety Analysis Report on the status of Fermi Unit 1. This report, which describes the unit's radiological condition and other facility details, is available for public inspection at the Monroe County Library System, Ellis Reference and Information Center, 3700 S. Custer Road, in Monroe, Michigan.

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