

**From:** uid no body <nobody@nrc.gov>  
**To:** <foia@nrc.gov>  
**Date:** Fri, Nov 21, 2003 8:50 AM  
**Subject:** WWW Form Submission

**FOIA/PA REQUEST**  
**Case No.** 2004-0057  
**Date Rec'd.** 11-21-03  
**Action Off:** Pool  
**Related Case:**

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by

( ) on Friday, November 21, 2003 at 08:50:35  
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Desc: All documents including inspection reports, inspector notes, meeting summaries, e-mails, and telephone conference summaries concerning decommissioning activities and decommissioning funding/costs between the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chairman and Commissioners, their staffs, the Executive Director of Operations, his staff, the NRC staff, the ACRS, its staff, the ACNW, its staff, and the licensees and licensee representatives for the following permanently closed nuclear power reactors:

- 1) Indian Point Unit 1
- 2) Maine Yankee
- 3) Yankee Rowe
- 4) Connecticut Yankee (a.k.a. Haddam Neck)
- 5) Big Rock Point
- 6) San Onofre Unit 1
- 7) Zion Units 1 and 2
- 8) Trojan
- 9) Humboldt Bay

If this request scope includes any records that cannot be released due to their proprietary contents, security contents, or confidential contents, UCS asks that these records be identified as withheld in the FOIA response. If only portions of records need be withheld for these reasons, UCS asks that the records be released with the applicable portions redacted.

FeeCategory: Educational

MediaType:

FeeCategory\_Description:

Expedite\_ImminentThreatText:

Expedite\_UrgencyToInformText:

Waiver\_Purpose: UCS is primarily interested in the question of whether adequate funding for decommissioning is being set aside by the licensees of operating reactors. This question became more critical as electricity deregulation transpired. For example, the US General Accounting Office examined the issue as documented in its May 1999 report, "NUCLEAR REGULATION: Better Oversight Needed to Ensure Accumulation of Funds to Decommission Nuclear Power Plants" (GAO/RCED-99-75). In the years since this and related studies, licensees have made progress decommissioning reactors such as San Onofre Unit 1. UCS seeks the requested information so as to enhance our understanding of current, actual decommissioning activities and their costs so as to make a better informed conclusion as to whether the decommissioning funding levels established for operating reactors is sufficient.

Waiver\_ExtentToExtractAnalyze: UCS will review the materials to better define the decommissioning scope of work (i.e., the specific tasks required) and, to the extent possible, the necessary man-hours and costs for accomplishing that work scope. UCS hopes to be able to better understand the factors that force cost increases. For example, we would like to be able to determine, at least qualitatively, whether size of reactor (thermal output) is a more dominant cost factor than operating history (i.e., fuel integrity experience, number of spills of radioactive liquids, etc.). We hope that the materials from several reactors will provide us with a stronger knowledge foundation for predicting or estimating the decommissioning costs for future reactors.

Waiver\_SpecificActivityQuals: As described in the answer to Question 2, UCS will review the materials with the intention of obtaining a stronger knowledge foundation for predicting future decommissioning costs. By obtaining this objective, we would be able to compare our results to the decommissioning funding levels established by licensees and reach an independent decision as to whether the established levels are adequate. Such evaluations will likely to be relevant in upcoming licensing proceedings involving the sale or transfer of operating nuclear reactors. The decommissioning fund has been an issue in past transactions and will likely to continue to be an issue in the future.

Waiver\_ImpactPublicUnderstanding: Decommissioning fund amounts and costs have been reported publicly, either via submittals to state utility commissions, in SEC filings, or in media accounts of plant sales. The knowledge gap that UCS seeks to fill is in the understanding of why funding levels vary and what factors dominate cost increases/decreases. The material we seek should permit better understanding on why Plant X costs more to decommission than Plant Y. Our analysis should allow the public to make a more informed assessment as to whether current operating Plant Z will be cost more than Plant X or Plant Y to decommission when that time comes.

Waiver\_NatureOfPublic: The target audience for this task is smaller than the typical UCS audience. It will be the activists, citizens, and local officials around operating nuclear power plants where decommissioning funding is now or will be an issue.

Waiver\_MeansOfDissemination: UCS intends to prepare a 15-20 page report documenting the results from our evaluation of the materials received in response to this FOIA request. This report will be posted to our website, [www.ucsusa.org](http://www.ucsusa.org), and disseminated electronically to activists, citizens, and local officials we think would be interested in its results.

Additionally, the report will be distributed, electronically or by regular mail, to any one asking for it.

Waiver\_FreeToPublicOrFee: The report will be posted to our website, [www.ucsusa.org](http://www.ucsusa.org), where it can be

viewed/downloaded without first becoming a UCS member or paying any fee.

Waiver\_PrivateCommericalInterest: None.

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