

September 21, 2004

MEMORANDUM TO: Chairman Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield

FROM: Luis A. Reyes */RA Martin J. Virgilio Acting For/*
Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT: STATUS OF DECOMMISSIONING PROGRAM - 2004 ANNUAL
REPORT

This memorandum provides the Commission the staff's draft 2004 Annual Report on the Status of the Decommissioning Program. This draft NUREG report provides a comprehensive status of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's decommissioning program. Its purpose is to provide a stand-alone reference document that describes the decommissioning process and summarizes the status of all decommissioning activities since the last report, through August 1, 2004, including the decommissioning of complex decommissioning sites, commercial reactors, research and test reactors, uranium mill tailings facilities, and fuel cycle facilities. In addition, this report discusses accomplishments in the decommissioning program since last year's report (SECY-03-0161), and it informs the Commission of decommissioning issues that the staff will address in the coming year. The staff plans to publish the report as a final NUREG in December 2004.

In the SRM to SECY 03-0161, "2003 Annual Update – Status of Decommissioning Program," the Commission directed the staff to expand the focus and increase the level of detail in the Annual Decommissioning Report with the intent of developing it as a primary communication document, and make other changes to the format of the report. In February 2004, the staff submitted SECY-04-0024, "Recommended Changes to Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Decommissioning Program and Annual Decommissioning Program Report."

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In the SRM to SECY-04-0024, the Commission approved the following changes to the Annual Decommissioning Report:

- Site descriptions will be provided for all decommissioning sites reported, including power reactors, research and test reactors, complex material sites, fuel cycle facilities, and uranium recovery facilities. Site descriptions are provided in Appendices A-E of the draft NUREG.
- The site descriptions for all sites discussed in the report will use the same format and will contain the same level of detail as the sites in the revised 2003 report. Site descriptions are provided in Appendices A-E of the draft NUREG. Site description formats have been standardized, and the level of detail is consistent with the revised 2003 Annual Report.
- The format of the report will be revised to address: (a) decommissioning programmatic activities since the last report (see Section 7 of draft the NUREG); (b) reactor decommissioning status (see Section 9 of draft the NUREG); (c) complex materials decommissioning status (see Section 10.1 of draft the NUREG); and (d) decommissioning activities planned for the coming fiscal year (see Section 11 of draft NUREG).
- The report will provide information on the decommissioning process for materials and reactor facilities. The decommissioning process for reactor and materials facilities is provided in Sections 9.1.1, 10.1.1, and 10.2.1 of the draft NUREG.

These changes were incorporated in the revised 2003 report, provided to the Commission on March 22, 2004, and are reflected in the attached report. Because the annual report contains information that is not expected to change from year to year (i.e., discussion of the materials decommissioning process), the staff will publish the report in the form of a NUREG document every 2 years, beginning with this report. In the odd-number years, the staff will publish the report as a shortened paper to the Commission, referencing the decommissioning Website.

The attached NUREG is one part of the overall communication strategy for the decommissioning program. To support the Commission Paper issued in the odd years, the staff is updating its web page to reflect the entire decommissioning program, including site summaries. In addition, the staff plans to develop a general brochure summarizing the decommissioning program which can be handed out to members of the public.

Past annual reports have included the resources budgeted for decommissioning activities. This year's report includes a very general discussion of decommissioning resources. A more detailed resource breakdown for staff [in full-time equivalents (FTEs)], and for contractor support (in thousands of dollars), as reflected in the fiscal year (FY) 2005 Green Book, by Office, follows:

	CURRENT	FY 2004	FY 2005	BUDGET
OFFICE	CONTRACTOR (\$)	STAFF (FTE)	CONTRACTOR (\$)	STAFF (FTE)
NMSS	2242	41	2267	43
OGC	0	3	0	3
NRR	2	3	1	2
RES	4144	16	2999	13
Regions	218	11	238	12
HR	70	0	73	0
Total	6676	74	5578	73

SECY, please track.

Attachment: Draft NUREG Report

cc: SECY
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*See previous concurrence

OFC	DECD	DECD*	DECD*	TechEd*	OGC*
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DATE		9/8/04	9/8/0	9/8/04	9/7/04

OFC	DWMEP*	NMSS	DEDMRS	EDO
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