

January 30, 2008

The Honorable Rick Boucher
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) intends to publish a proposed rule in the *Federal Register* that would amend regulations in Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* parts 20, 30, 40, 50, 70, and 72 to improve Decommissioning Planning. The proposed rule would require all NRC licensees to minimize residual radioactivity at their site, including in the subsurface, and to provide additional details in their decommissioning cost estimates, including the extent of subsurface contamination. The proposed rule also would tighten NRC control of certain financial instruments, such as the parent company guarantee and self guarantee, to increase the assurance that adequate funds will be available from the licensee to complete facility decommissioning. These changes are proposed following NRC staff recommendations to prevent the occurrence of future legacy sites, which are sites in a decommissioning status with insufficient funds to complete the decommissioning work.

Increasing licensee awareness of subsurface contamination during facility operations while the licensee is generating revenue, and allowing NRC to review that subsurface contamination information, will improve decommissioning planning efforts. The Commission supports this proposed rule as a means to enhance environmental protection and protect public health and safety.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Rebecca L. Schmidt, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:
Federal Register Notice

cc: Representative Fred Upton

January 30, 2008

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper
Chairman, Subcommittee on Clean Air
and Nuclear Safety
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) intends to publish a proposed rule in the *Federal Register* that would amend regulations in Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* parts 20, 30, 40, 50, 70, and 72 to improve Decommissioning Planning. The proposed rule would require all NRC licensees to minimize residual radioactivity at their site, including in the subsurface, and to provide additional details in their decommissioning cost estimates, including the extent of subsurface contamination. The proposed rule also would tighten NRC control of certain financial instruments, such as the parent company guarantee and self guarantee, to increase the assurance that adequate funds will be available from the licensee to complete facility decommissioning. These changes are proposed following NRC staff recommendations to prevent the occurrence of future legacy sites, which are sites in a decommissioning status with insufficient funds to complete the decommissioning work.

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Sincerely,

/RA/

Rebecca L. Schmidt, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:
Federal Register Notice

cc: Senator George V. Voinovich

January 30, 2008

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Chairman, Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Madam Chairman:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) intends to publish a proposed rule in the *Federal Register* that would amend regulations in Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* parts 20, 30, 40, 50, 70, and 72 to improve Decommissioning Planning. The proposed rule would require all NRC licensees to minimize residual radioactivity at their site, including in the subsurface, and to provide additional details in their decommissioning cost estimates, including the extent of subsurface contamination. The proposed rule also would tighten NRC control of certain financial instruments, such as the parent company guarantee and self guarantee, to increase the assurance that adequate funds will be available from the licensee to complete facility decommissioning. These changes are proposed following NRC staff recommendations to prevent the occurrence of future legacy sites, which are sites in a decommissioning status with insufficient funds to complete the decommissioning work.

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/RA/

Rebecca L. Schmidt, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:
Federal Register Notice

cc: Senator James M. Inhofe

January 30, 2008

The Honorable John D. Dingell
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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/RA/

Rebecca L. Schmidt, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:
Federal Register Notice

cc: Representative Joe Barton

January 30, 2008

The Honorable Rick Boucher
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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Rebecca L. Schmidt, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:

Federal Register Notice

cc: Representative Fred Upton

Distribution:

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Identical Letters sent to The Honorable Thomas Carper with cc to Senator George V. Voinovich, The Honorable Barbara Boxer with cc to Senator James M. Inhofe, and The Honorable John D. Dingell with cc to Representative Joe Barton

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