

July 17, 2009

ALL STATE LIAISON OFFICERS

AUGUST 20, 2009, NRC DECOMMISSIONING FUNDING ASSURANCE PUBLIC MEETING

Purpose:

This is to inform you of and invite your participation in the subject U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) public meeting to be held August 20, 2009, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center in Rockville, Maryland (see Agenda, Enclosure 1). This public meeting follows the August 18-19, 2009, National State Liaison Officers (SLO) Conference (conference), to be held at the same location. NRC's Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation has arranged for this meeting to occur immediately following the conference in order to most conveniently accommodate those SLOs already in Rockville, MD, that week. The purpose of the meeting is to explain NRC's biennial decommissioning funding report analysis process and to provide an explanation of and to solicit public comment on the NRC's Draft Regulatory Guide-1229, "Assuring the Availability of Funds for Decommissioning Nuclear Reactors." The Draft Regulatory Guide was published for comment in the *Federal Register* on June 30, 2009. Draft Regulatory Guide-1229 and the Federal Register Notice are both enclosed for your convenience (Enclosures 2 and 3, respectively).

Background:

Nuclear power plant operators are required to set aside funds during a reactor's operating life to ensure the reactor site will be properly cleaned up once the reactor is permanently shut down. The NRC's review of the latest reports on decommissioning funding assurance (DFA) suggests several plants must adjust their funding plans.

The NRC staff recently contacted licensees of 26 units, which are located in 11 States and identified in the 2009 biennial DFA review as having potential shortfalls if no adjustments are made to the amounts currently provided. The purpose of the calls was to clarify the amount of the DFA shortfalls calculated by the NRC staff for the subject units, to clarify the methodology used by the NRC staff to determine DFA levels, and to establish a schedule for licensee submittal of a plan to address the potential shortfall. The NRC staff plans to make this information publicly available upon receipt of the licensee submittals.

See NRC's website for additional information about reactor decommissioning and funding at: <http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/decommissioning/finan-assur/bi-decom-reports.html>.

Contacts:

Please direct any questions you may have concerning the August 20, 2009, DFA meeting to Michael Dusaniwskyj; he can be reached by phone at 301-415-1260 or by e-mail at Michael.Dusaniwskyj@nrc.gov.

Please contact Amanda Noonan by COB July 27, 2009, if you intend to stay over and participate at NRC expense in the August 20, 2009, public meeting. Ms. Noonan can be reached by phone at 301-415-2551 or by e-mail at Amanda.Noonan@nrc.gov. Also, please revise your airline travel and hotel plans with Carlson Travel and the Bethesda North Marriott, accordingly.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Mark R. Shaffer, Director
Division of Intergovernmental Liaison
and Rulemaking
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

Enclosures:

1. August 20, 2009, Meeting Agenda
2. Draft Regulatory Guide-1229
3. June 30, 2009, Federal Register Notice

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