



December 7, 2010

In reply, please refer to LAC-14152

DOCKET NO. 50-409

Document Control Desk
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

SUBJECT: Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC)
La Crosse Boiling Water Reactor (LACBWR)
Possession-Only License No. DPR-45
Notification of Change in Decommissioning Schedule

REFERENCE: 10 CFR 50.82(a)(6), (7), and (8)

This letter provides notification to the NRC, as required by 10 CFR 50.82(a)(7), of DPC's intent to accelerate certain decommissioning activities at the LACBWR facility. Following similar notification, the reactor pressure vessel was removed and disposed of in June 2007. DPC is in the process of placing LACBWR spent fuel in dry cask storage at an onsite Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) under general license provisions of 10 CFR 72, Subpart K. ISFSI implementation is scheduled to be complete by the fall of 2011. With removal of the spent fuel, an opportunity exists for DPC to accelerate the final decommissioning of the LACBWR facility.

LACBWR permanently ceased operation on April 30, 1987, with reactor defueling completed on June 11, 1987. The NRC Order authorizing decommissioning was issued August 7, 1991. This order included approval of the Decommissioning Plan (D-Plan) for implementation. The LACBWR D-Plan is accepted as the post-shutdown decommissioning activities report (PSDAR) under 10 CFR 50.82. The D-Plan describes the current schedule for decommissioning activities and the status of funding assurance for these activities. The D-Plan states that for decommissioning funding assurance, scheduled DECON was planned to commence in 2019 and was assumed to be a 7-year project. The D-Plan also states that accumulated decommissioning funds are projected to be sufficient to permit a possible earlier start of DECON.

DPC Staff completed an extensive review and analysis of the comparative costs and benefits of the current decommissioning schedule and various accelerated schedules. From this analysis, the DPC Board of Directors approved accelerating the removal of radioactive metal from the LACBWR facility.

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DPC will accelerate the decommissioning of the LACBWR facility starting with an approximate 4-year period of systems removal beginning in 2012. This phase constitutes major decommissioning activity in that it will result in the permanent removal of major radioactive components as defined in 10 CFR 50.2. This activity will include the removal for shipment of large bore (16 and 20-inch) reactor coolant piping and pumps of the Forced Circulation system and other equipment once connected to the reactor pressure vessel or primary system such as Control Rod Drive Mechanisms; and all components of the Decay Heat, Primary Purification, Seal Injection, and Main Steam systems.

As stipulated in 10 CFR 50.82(a)(6), these major LACBWR decommissioning activities will not:

- (i) Foreclose release of the site for possible unrestricted use;
- (ii) Result in significant environmental impacts not previously reviewed; or
- (iii) Result in there no longer being reasonable assurance that adequate funds will be available for decommissioning.

Systems removal from the LACBWR facility will be accomplished in accordance with all applicable regulations and guidance. During the process of metal removal, license termination planning will be performed and the disposition of concrete structures and site end use will be determined.

This phase of decommissioning activity does not result in significant environmental impacts and has been reviewed as documented in the "Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) on Decommissioning of Nuclear Facilities," NUREG-0586, Supplement 1, November 2002. As stated in the GEIS, licensees can rely on information in this Supplement as a basis for meeting the requirements in 10 CFR 50.82(a)(6)(ii). The GEIS characterizes the environmental impacts resulting from this decommissioning activity as generic and small. Potential site-specific environmental impacts not determined in the GEIS will be addressed in the License Termination Plan (LTP) for LACBWR. The LTP will be completed for submittal to the NRC concurrently or shortly following the systems removal phase.

DPC's review and analysis found that the Nuclear Decommissioning Trust (NDT) was sufficiently funded to allow the dismantlement to begin in 2012, immediately after spent fuel removal is completed. Costs of the metal removal project will be funded from the NDT. The use of NDT funds meets the requirements stated in 10 CFR 50.82(a)(8)(i).

DPC's strategy requires continued evaluation of the costs of the decommissioning activity as it progresses. The LTP will include an updated site-specific estimate of remaining decommissioning costs that will reflect the systems removal. DPC's decommissioning strategy for LACBWR with accelerated systems removal provides flexibility in that provisions are afforded to evaluate the costs and benefits of alternative methodologies for concrete removal, and to delay LTP implementation if necessary to assure adequate NDT funds are available for the final decommissioning process.

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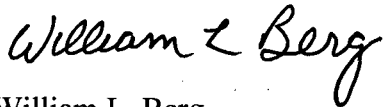
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If you have any questions regarding this notification of change in decommissioning schedule, please contact LACBWR Plant Manager Mike Brasel at (608) 689-4220.

Sincerely,

DAIRYLAND POWER COOPERATIVE



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