

July 14, 2011

ALL AGREEMENT STATES, ALL NON-AGREEMENT STATES, STATE LIAISON OFFICERS

**REVISION OF NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION (NRC) DECOMMISSIONING PLANNING REGULATIONS, PARTS 20, 30, 40, and 70 – INFORMATIONAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (FSME-11-066)**

**Purpose:** To provide a copy of informational questions and answers on the final NRC Decommissioning Planning Rule (DPR).

**Background:** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has amended its regulations to improve decommissioning planning and thereby reduce the likelihood that any current operating facility will become a legacy site (a site requiring government cleanup funds). The final rules were posted in the *Federal Register*, 76 FR 35512, on June 17, 2011, and can also be accessed through this website: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>. The amended regulations require licensees to conduct their operations to minimize the introduction of residual radioactivity into the site, including its subsurface soil and groundwater. Licensees also may be required to perform site surveys to determine whether significant residual radioactivity is present in subsurface areas, and records of these surveys must be kept with records important for decommissioning. The amended regulations eliminate the escrow account and line of credit as approved financial assurance mechanisms, and require materials licensees to report additional details in their decommissioning cost estimates. The rules also modify other financial assurance requirements for power reactors in decommissioning. On June 28, 2011, the NRC Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs (FSME) provided to the Agreement States, by letter FSME-11-059, compatibility requirements and other information for Agreement State implementation of the rule. These regulations are due for adoption by the Agreement States no later than December 17, 2015.

**Discussion:** To provide additional information for States and other stakeholders, the NRC has prepared the enclosed Questions and Answers document. This document is for informational purposes only, and no further action on it is requested, required, or expected.

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact me at (301) 415-7278 or the individual named below.

FSME-11-066

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Enclosures:  
Q&As on Final Decommissioning  
Planning Rule

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