



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS
WASHINGTON, DC 20555 - 0001**

December 17, 2012

Mr. R. W. Borchardt
Executive Director for Operations
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

SUBJECT: DRAFT FINAL REGULATORY GUIDE 4.22, "DECOMMISSIONING PLANNING DURING OPERATIONS"

Dear Mr. Borchardt:

During the 600th meeting of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, December 6-8, 2012, we completed our review of Draft Final Regulatory Guide (RG) 4.22, "Decommissioning Planning During Operations." Our Radiation Protection and Nuclear Materials Subcommittee reviewed Draft Final RG 4.22 during its meeting on December 4, 2012. During our meetings, we had discussions with representatives of the NRC staff and the Nuclear Energy Institute. We also had the benefit of the documents referenced.

RECOMMENDATION

Draft Final Regulatory Guide 4.22 should be issued as final.

BACKGROUND

In response to SRM-SECY-07-0177, the staff issued revisions to the requirements in 10 CFR Part 20 known as the Decommissioning Planning Rule. These revisions were final on June 17, 2011, and will become effective on December 17, 2012.

Draft Final RG 4.22 provides guidance for operating facilities on methods of meeting the revised technical requirements for effective decommissioning planning.

DISCUSSION

The staff issued four versions of the draft guidance between January 2008 and July 2012. Each version of the draft guidance was commented on by stakeholders, and staff responded to comments in each of the subsequent revisions.

The staff addressed our concerns with Draft Final RG 4.22 satisfactorily. The Committee has no objection to the staff's request that Draft Final RG 4.22 be issued as final. No response to this letter is required.

We commend the staff on their continuing efforts to improve decommissioning guidance for licensees.

Sincerely,

/RA/

J. Sam Armijo
Chairman

REFERENCES

1. Draft Final Regulatory Guide RG-4.22, "Decommissioning Planning During Operations," December 2012 (ML12158A184).
2. SRM-SECY-07-0177, "Proposed Rule: Decommissioning Planning," December 10, 2007, (ML073440549)
3. "Decommissioning Planning: Final Rule," U.S. NRC, Federal Register, Volume 76, No. 117, June 17, 2011.

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1. Draft Final Regulatory Guide RG-4.22, "Decommissioning Planning During Operations," December 2012 (ML12158A184).
2. SRM-SECY-07-0177, "Proposed Rule: Decommissioning Planning," December 10, 2007, (ML073440549)
3. "Decommissioning Planning: Final Rule," U.S. NRC, Federal Register, Volume 76, No. 117, June 17, 2011.

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