

This page provides an abstract, justification, and target dates for a potential rule that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has prioritized in its Common Prioritization of Rulemaking listing.

Please visit the [Rulemaking Priorities](#) page on the NRC's public Web site for additional information about this page and to view the entire Common Prioritization of Rulemaking listing.

<b>Regulatory Improvements for Power Reactors Transitioning to Decommissioning</b>				
<b>Abstract</b>				
<p>As power reactors transition from an operational status to the permanently shut down and defueled condition, a significant reduction of risk to public health and safety is achieved. These shutdown reactors remain subject to many of the same requirements as operating reactors. Because the development of regulations for operating nuclear power plants often did not consider decommissioning, the requirements imposed on decommissioning nuclear power reactors may be inappropriate, may not be applicable, or may not align with safety significance. The Commission has directed the NRC staff to proceed with rulemaking on decommissioning and set an objective of early 2019 for completion of this rulemaking. The Commission also stated that this rulemaking should address: issues discussed in SECY-00-0145 such as the graded approach to emergency preparedness; lessons learned from the plants that have already (or are currently) going through the decommissioning process; the advisability of requiring a licensee's Post-Shutdown Decommissioning Activity Report to be approved by the NRC; the appropriateness of maintaining the three existing options for decommissioning and the timeframes associated with those options; the appropriate role of State and local governments and non-governmental stakeholders in the decommissioning process; and any other issues deemed relevant by the NRC staff.</p>				
<b>Justification</b>				
<p>The rule scores 33 points (8, 10, 10, 5) because of the following reasons: A) Moderate contributor to the Security Goal (Objective 1, Strategy 1); B) Significant contributor to Regulatory Effectiveness (Strategies 1 &amp; 2); C) Commission directed (SRM/SECY-14-0118); and D) Significant contributor: public interest and reduction in regulatory burden.</p>				
<b>Start Dates</b>	<b>Reg Basis Completed</b>	<b>PR Sent to Comm/EDO</b>	<b>FR Sent to Comm/EDO</b>	<b>Publication Date</b>
12/31/2014	06/30/2017	04/10/2018	07/10/2019	09/11/2019