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# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

**Docket:** NRC-2015-0070

Regulatory Improvements for Power Reactors Transitioning to Decommissioning

**Comment On:** NRC-2015-0070-0001

Regulatory Improvements for Decommissioning Power Reactors

**Document:** NRC-2015-0070-DRAFT-0003

Comment on FR Doc # 2015-29536

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## Submitter Information

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## General Comment

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) requests an extension of the public comment deadline. Our full request is in the attached file.

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## Attachments

Request for extension of comment period Decommissioning ANPR



**NYSERDA**

**ANDREW M. CUOMO**  
Governor

**RICHARD L. KAUFFMAN**  
Chair

**JOHN B. RHODES**  
President and CEO

December 3, 2015

Secretary  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001  
December 1, 2015  
ATTN: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff

Docket ID NRC-2015-0070

Subject: Request for Comment Period Extension

On November 19, 2015, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) published an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) for comment on the Regulatory Improvements for Decommissioning Power Reactors (See Federal Register/Vol. 80, No. 223/Thursday, November 19, 2015). Public comments on the ANPR are currently due by January 4, 2016.

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) asks that NRC extend the comment period to 120 days for this critically important proposed rulemaking.

In recent years, five power reactors have permanently shut down, defueled, and are transitioning to decommissioning. Three more are expected to cease operations by 2019. Current decommissioning regulations are inadequate to govern the process and NRC's 2001 attempt to develop an updated decommissioning rule stopped after the September 11<sup>th</sup> terrorist attacks. To establish a decommissioning framework for the reactors currently undergoing decommissioning, the NRC has had to process various license amendments and exemptions. In order for stakeholders to evaluate and respond to the current ANPR, it will be necessary to review all of the historical documents related to decommissioning, review interim guidance that has been issued, and do a case by case review of exemption and license amendments approved by NRC for recently decommissioning reactors.

The request for public comment in the federal register for the ANPR on decommissioning is comprehensive and lists specific questions to be answered in detail. The ANPR includes ten specific, distinct areas to be addressed and more than 71 specific questions. The NRC has specifically asked stakeholders to provide detailed responses including underlying rationale. In order for stakeholders to provide meaningful, thoughtful and comprehensive feedback, it is critical to have the necessary time to review applicable documents and collaborate with other stakeholders.

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The breadth of the questions posed in the ANPR spans the portfolios of numerous State agencies here in New York. Collaboration among them is underway but is challenging logistically on this short timeframe, compounded by the upcoming holiday season.

For the reasons outlined above, NYSERDA respectfully requests that NRC extend the public comment period on the Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) for comment on the Regulatory Improvements for Decommissioning Power Reactors to a full 120 day comment period which would make public comments due on or around March 18, 2016.

Should you require additional information relating to this request for extension, you may contact me at (518) 862-1090 x3274 or [alyse.peterson@nyserda.ny.gov](mailto:alyse.peterson@nyserda.ny.gov).

Sincerely,

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