

Rulemaking1CEm Resource

From: RulemakingComments Resource
Sent: Thursday, January 21, 2016 4:58 PM
To: Rulemaking1CEm Resource
Subject: Comment on ANPR-26, 50, 73 and 140 - Regulatory Improvements for Decommissioning Power Reactors
Attachments: image2016-01-21-162703.pdf

DOCKETED BY USNRC—OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

SECY-067

PR#: ANPR-26, 50, 52, 73, and 140

FRN#: 80FR72358

NRC DOCKET#: NRC-2015-0070

SECY DOCKET DATE: 1/21/16

TITLE: Regulatory Improvements for Decommissioning Power Reactors

COMMENT#: 026

Hearing Identifier: Secy_RuleMaking_comments_Public
Email Number: 1471

Mail Envelope Properties (c4490ef747c84fb4b3f4d96bbfd6ff72)

Subject: Comment on ANPR-26, 50, 73 and 140 - Regulatory Improvements for Decommissioning Power Reactors
Sent Date: 1/21/2016 4:57:44 PM
Received Date: 1/21/2016 4:57:47 PM
From: RulemakingComments Resource

Created By: RulemakingComments.Resource@nrc.gov

Recipients:
"Rulemaking1CEm Resource" <Rulemaking1CEm.Resource@nrc.gov>
Tracking Status: None

Post Office: HQPWMSMRS03.nrc.gov

Files	Size	Date & Time
MESSAGE	271	1/21/2016 4:57:47 PM
image2016-01-21-162703.pdf	534869	

Options
Priority: Standard
Return Notification: No
Reply Requested: No
Sensitivity: Normal
Expiration Date:
Recipients Received:

Dec. 29, 2015

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

Dear Sir/Madam

I am submitting comments on the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (Docket No. NRC-2015-0070) on behalf of name of your organization. I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the development of potential changes to the decommissioning process for nuclear power reactors.


First, I would like to respectfully request that NRC extend the comment period for the Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) for an additional 45 days, until February 18, 2016. This will give stakeholders necessary additional time to draft and submit comments. The original comment deadline of January 4 is insufficient given the number of federal holidays that fall during the comment period. Communities that host nuclear power reactors should be actively and substantially engaged in the decommissioning process from the outset.

Host communities face a number of significant impacts upon reactor closure including orderly redevelopment of the site, direct and indirect economic impacts related to the loss of employee income and tax revenue, changes in emergency planning requirements and support, and other fiscal impacts related to a major shift in the local economy and employment. I strongly support more direct engagement with host communities in NRC's decommissioning and closure process.

Section V of the ANPRM entitled "Specific Considerations" asks whether the current role of stakeholders in the decommissioning process should be expanded or enhanced, and how so? The response from communities that host nuclear facilities is a resounding yes. A way to expand engagement is through the establishment of a host community decommissioning task force to advise NRC on community impacts before, during, and after reactor closure.

While the ANPRM acknowledges that for most decommissioning sites, state and local governments are involved in an advisory capacity (as part of a Community Engagement Panel for instance), there is no requirement under current NRC regulations that these advisory panels be formed. As NRC examines potential changes to current regulations, mandating these panels would be an appropriate step toward ensuring local community engagement. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Regulatory Improvements for Decommissioning Power Reactors (Docket No. NRC-2015-0070).

Sincerely,


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Happy Holidays

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Secretary

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