

Rulemaking1CEm Resource

From: RulemakingComments Resource
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Subject: Comment on ANPR-26, 50, 52, 73, and 140 - Regulatory Improvements for Decommissioning
Attachments: NRC-2015-0070-DRAFT-0053.pdf

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Docket: NRC-2015-0070

Regulatory Improvements for Power Reactors Transitioning to Decommissioning

Comment On: NRC-2015-0070-0007

Regulatory Improvements for Decommissioning Power Reactors; Extension of Comment Period

Document: NRC-2015-0070-DRAFT-0053

Comment on FR Doc # 2015-32599

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Organization: Peoples' Action for Clean Energy

General Comment

March 3, 2016

US Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Docket No. NRC-2015-0070

Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Nuclear Regulatory Commission:

I am writing to you to express the concerns of PACE, (People's Action for Clean Energy) about the decommissioning of the aging, and increasingly costly and unsafe nuclear power plants in the US. Occam's Razor is a term used to suggest that when faced with multiple ideas/solutions, the simplest is usually the best. Nuclear power is the most complicated, expensive, and dangerous form of energy known to mankind, and needs to be phased out as rapidly as possible. Occam's Razor would suggest that using the plentiful, free, clean, never-ending light and heat from our sun (solar, wind, hydro, biomass) is the simplest, healthiest, and least expensive way to power Planet Earth now and forever.

As the world changes from the dirtiest, costly, non-renewable sources of energy of the twentieth century (coal, oil, nuclear) to the clean, healthy, renewable sources of energy of the twenty first century and beyond

(gas, solar, wind, hydro, geothermal, biomass), we need to move quickly and fairly in the decommissioning of all aging nuclear plants. Here are the concerns of PACE:

1. The decommissioning funds must be used exclusively for radiological cleanup, not operating expenses or lobbying.
2. The parent corporations must not be allowed to escape responsibility for financial shortfalls in the decommissioning fund.
3. Emergency Planning Zones should not be diminished, nor insurance coverage reduced, until all the spent fuel rods have been removed from the highly vulnerable spent fuel pools and put into safer dry cask storage.

No one really knows the true total costs of decommissioning and storing the dangerously radioactive spent fuel for hundreds and thousands of years. We truly doubt that the money withheld from each homeowner's electric bill will be enough to cover both the costs of decommissioning, and short-term dry cask storage and long-term underground storage of the 100,000 tons (and growing) of spent fuel rods in the US. One percent of all spent fuel is plutonium-239, which has a half-life of 24,000 years! It is well known that it takes 10 half lives to dissipate all the radiation from radioactive atoms, which is 240,000 years for plutonium!! Even 24,000 years is an incomprehensible number when considering long-term storage costs.

Thank you for including our concerns in your deliberations.

Sincerely,
Peter Markow, Professor Emeritus, University of Saint Joseph
PACE, Board of Director's member