

Rulemaking1CEm Resource

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Regulatory Improvements for Power Reactors Transitioning to Decommissioning

Comment On: NRC-2015-0070-0007

Regulatory Improvements for Decommissioning Power Reactors; Extension of Comment Period

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Comment on FR Doc # 2015-32599

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General Comment

Nuclear power facilities going through the decommissioning process remain hazardous until all of the spent nuclear fuel rods are put into dry cask storage. Up until that point, while the spent fuel rods remain in cooling pools, they are highly radioactive and subject to mechanical failure of the cooling mechanisms, human error in plant operations, and terrorism. Terrorism was much less of a concern when the decommissioning regulations were written, but it looms larger today. For this reason, operators should not be allowed to scale back on security for plants going through the decommissioning process. Neither should they be allowed to eliminate the emergency planning zones around the plants. In the case of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station in Plymouth Massachusetts, the EPZ should actually be increased to include Cape Cod and the Islands, from which evacuation would be extremely problematic in the event of a nuclear accident. Finally, nuclear plant operators must continue to be held accountable for the cost of decommissioning these plants.

Sincerely,

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