



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

September 20, 2019

Mr. Kraig D. Schultz
11919 Mill Lane
Grand Haven, MI 49417

SUBJECT: PROPOSED CHANGES TO DECOMMISSIONING REGULATIONS

Dear Mr. Schultz:

I am responding to your letter dated August 1, 2019, to U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Chairman Kristine Svinicki (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML19224B875). Thank you for taking the time to write to the NRC with proposed changes to our regulations regarding decommissioning of nuclear power reactors.

Your letter contained two proposed changes:

1. "We propose that plants be decommissioned as quickly as is safely possible. In particular, spent fuel should be moved from the spent fuel pools into hardened on-site storage casks on a similar schedule to how they were regularly able to be safely transferred when the plant was in power production."
2. "We propose that the NRC amend its rules so that plants must maintain a site specific decommissioning plan and cost estimate on file that is submitted every 2 years at the time plants must report on their decommissioning fund status."

The NRC is currently considering changes to the regulations regarding nuclear power reactor decommissioning, and the Commission is reviewing a rulemaking proposal from the NRC staff. Specific information about the rulemaking can be found at <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/rulemaking-ruleforum/active/RuleDetails.html?id=49> and at <https://www.regulations.gov> under Docket ID NRC-2015-0070. This rulemaking might be of interest to you because it includes the topics of spent fuel storage and financial assurance for decommissioning. Although the current staff proposal does not include the changes you have identified, you may submit these requested changes and other feedback as a comment on the proposed rule once it is published. You can use the links on the NRC's public website and [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) to submit your comment.

Under the NRC's current regulations, the NRC ensures that storage of spent fuel is done safely and securely whether in a spent fuel pool or dry storage. Our regulations for ensuring adequate funding for power reactor decommissioning (10 CFR 50.75) do require licensees for nuclear power plants to estimate and accumulate funds during operations.

Additionally, the NRC has a formal process for submission and evaluation of requests for changes to NRC regulations. The process is described on our public website at <https://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/rulemaking/petition-rule.html>.

K. Schultz

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If you have questions or concerns regarding this letter, please contact me at John.Tappert@nrc.gov or 301-415-2486.

Sincerely,

/RA Fred Schofer Acting for/

John R. Tappert, Director
Division of Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

SUBJECT: LETTER FROM JOHN R. TAPPERT TO KRAIG SCHULTZ RE: PROPOSED CHANGES TO DECOMMISSIONING REGULATIONS **DATED:** September 20, 2019

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