

MR. FAZIO: Has the technology to decommission a plant the size of Rancho Seco been proven?

CHAIRMAN CARR:

Yes. On the basis of the successfully completed decommissioning of the Shippingport Atomic Power Plant, Mr. John J. Schreiber of the U.S. Department of Energy recently concluded in a speech at the 1989 CEC Conference on the Decommissioning of Nuclear Installation in Brussels, Belgium, that "...the technology, equipment and skills exist... to decontaminate and decommission any size power plant...". Based on studies NRC has performed, the staff agrees with this conclusion.

However, the Shippingport reactor pressure vessel was removed, transported, and disposed intact. For a full size power reactor this method is not generally feasible, and the reactor pressure vessel must be segmented prior to removal and shipment. Although this has never been performed, the basic technology exists and has been well proven in a laboratory environment at Pacific Northwest Laboratory.

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