

June 16, 1994

LICENSEE: Consumers Power Company

FACILITY: Big Rock Point Plant

SUBJECT: MEETING SUMMARY - DECOMMISSIONING MEETING NO. 4

On June 14, 1994, the fourth meeting to discuss the decommissioning plan for Big Rock Point (BRP) was held in Rockville, Maryland. A list of attendees is provided in Enclosure 1.

The licensee would prefer to ship the spent fuel offsite, but should that not be feasible, the licensee is planning to construct a new spent fuel rack for installation in the spent fuel pool. The new rack will be constructed to be similar to existing racks in the pool and will be available in time to provide full core offload capability. Sometime before decommissioning on May 31, 2000, the licensee will submit a license amendment to allow installation of the rack and additional spent fuel assemblies in the spent fuel pool. Dry cask storage is not being considered.

The most likely decommissioning option is SAFSTOR for 30 years, followed by dismantling and decontamination. The decommissioning plan, scheduled to be submitted in November 1994, will include a discussion of the plan for the dismantling and decontamination that will begin in 2030.

In the interest of keeping the public informed, the licensee held the first meeting of the Citizen Advisory Board (May 25, 1994) and is distributing a pamphlet (Enclosure 2) to the public.

The licensee reiterated its desire to have the decommissioning plan approved within one year of submittal. The licensee handed out Enclosure 3 to explain the need for the one-year approval.

At the close of the meeting, the licensee and the NRC agreed to hold the next meeting on August 16, 1994.

Original signed by

Leonard N. Olshan, Project Manager  
Project Directorate III-1  
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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PDR ADOCK 05000155  
P PDR

Enclosures:

1. Meeting attendees
2. Licensee handout
3. One-Year Turnaround of Plan

cc: w/enclosures  
See next page

OFFICE	LA:PD31	PM:PD31	D:PD31
NAME	CJamerson	LOlshan:gll	LMarsh
DATE	06/15/94	06/16/94	06/16/94

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FILENAME:G:\WPDOCS\BIGROCK\BRP0614.SUM

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cc:

Big Rock Point Nuclear Plant

Mr. Patrick M. Donnelly, Plant Manager  
Big Rock Point Plant  
Consumers Power Company  
10269 U.S. 31 North  
Charlevoix, Michigan 49720

Mr. Thomas A. McNish, Secretary  
Consumers Power Company  
212 West Michigan Avenue  
Jackson, Michigan 49201

Judd L. Bacon, Esquire  
Consumers Power Company  
212 West Michigan Avenue  
Jackson, Michigan 49201

Jane E. Brannon, County Clerk  
County Building Annex  
203 Antrim Street  
Charlevoix, Michigan 49720

Office of the Governor  
Room 1 - Capitol Building  
Lansing, Michigan 48913

Regional Administrator, Region III  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
801 Warrenville Road  
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Nuclear Facilities and Environmental  
Monitoring Section Office  
Division of Radiological Health  
Department of Public Health  
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Lansing, Michigan 48909

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Resident Inspector Office  
Big Rock Point Plant  
10253 U.S. 31 North  
Charlevoix, Michigan 49720

Mr. Robert A. Fenech, Vice President  
Nuclear Operations  
Consumers Power Company  
Palisades Plant  
27780 Blue Star Memorial Hwy.  
Covert, Michigan 49043

## LIST OF ATTENDEES

BIG ROCK POINT DECOMMISSIONING MEETING NO. 4

June 14, 1994

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>
M. Bourassa	Consumers Power Co.
J. Corley	Consumers Power Co.
J. Rang	Consumers Power Co.
G. Charnoff	Shaw Pittman
V. Hubbard	Winston & Strawn
S. Bajwa	NRC/NRR
L. Bell	NRC/NMSS
S. Brown	NRC/NMSS
P. Erickson	NRC/NRR
L. Olshan	NRC/NRR

## The decommissioning plan

Consumers Power formed a 12-member team in September 1993 for the year-long task of putting together a Big Rock Point decommissioning plan. The document will contain an estimate of decommissioning costs as well as and in deciding the future of the facility and its employees.

The decommissioning team began its work in October 1993 because the company needs to meet deadlines established by the government.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) requires that a utility file preliminary and final decommissioning plans within five years and two years, respectively, of a planned retirement of a nuclear power plant.

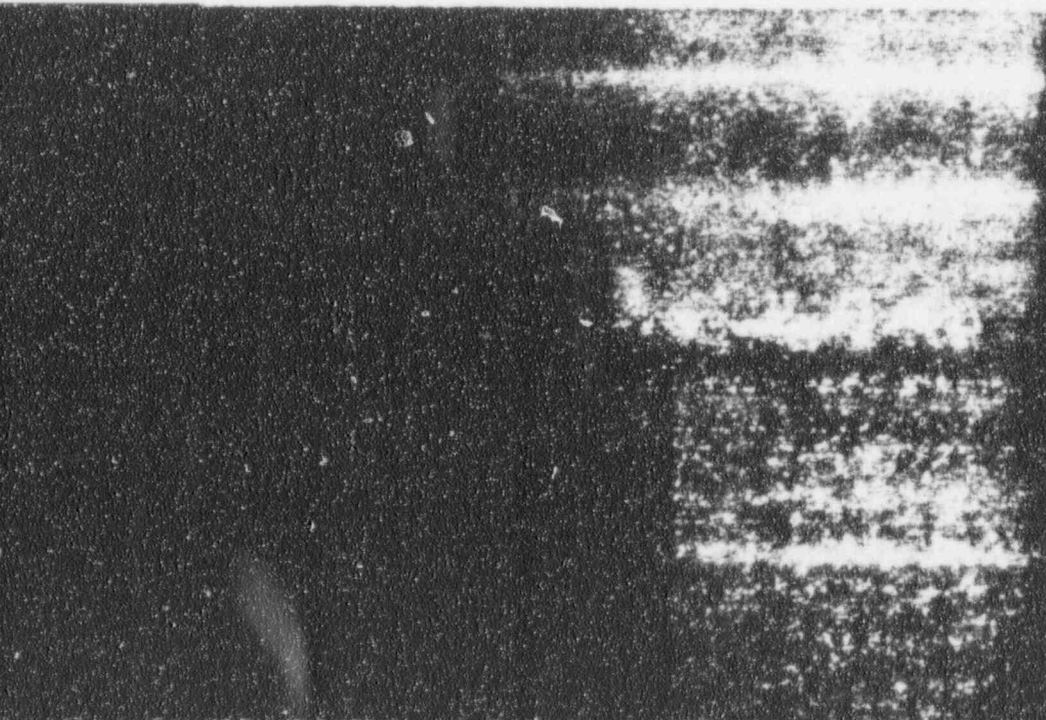
Consumers Power would also like to complete the plan early to save its customers money.

As part of the plan, the company will conduct a number of studies, some of them focusing on the environment, spent fuel storage, possible conversion to another fuel, decommissioning alternatives, and low-level radioactive waste disposal.

## An economic challenge

The greatest uncertainty concerning the retirement of Big Rock Point is the continued escalation of decommissioning costs. In 1994, the age-based Commonwealth Edison Co. raised its estimate for the cost of dismantling its six nuclear plants by 45 percent, from \$2.9 billion to \$4.2 billion.

With approval from the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC), Consumers Power has been collecting about 35 cents a month per average residential customer — a total of \$19 million annually from all customers — to fund the decommissioning of Big Rock Point. Consumers Power will file an update on estimated decommissioning costs with the Michigan Public Service Commission by March 31, 1995. ■

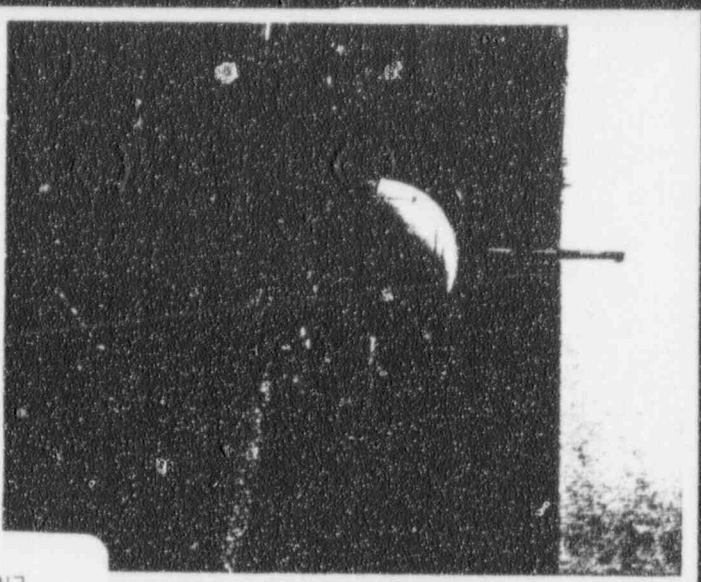


# Consumers Power Company Decommissioning of the Big Rock Point Nuclear Plant

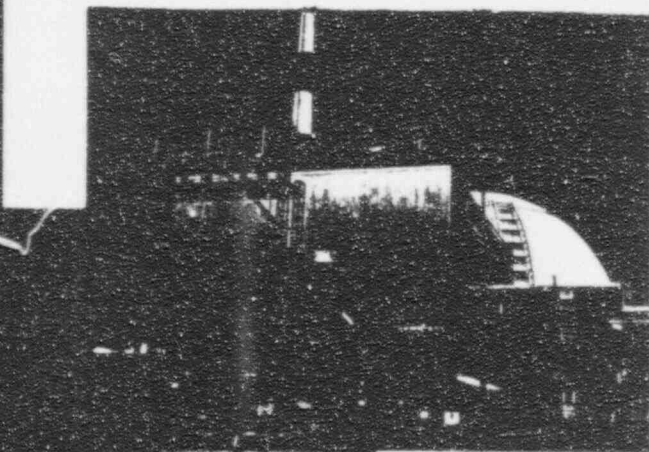


**Consumers  
Power**  
**POWERING  
MICHIGAN'S PROGRESS**

**Big Rock Point  
Nuclear Plant**  
10269 US-31 North  
Charlevoix, MI 49720



ENCLOSURE 2



will be an important part of Consumers Power's Big Rock Point decommissioning project, when the facility will cease generating electricity using uranium oxide pellets as fuel for nuclear fission.

Until then, and for some time after the plant shuts down, Big Rock Point and other Consumers Power employees will be taking the plant through a complex activity known as "decommissioning."

The process of retiring the Big Rock Point facility as a nuclear power plant is a complex one that must address the safe shutdown of the plant as well as a decision as to the future of its employees and the facility.

Consumers Power is shutting down Big Rock Point simply because the plant's license to operate as a nuclear facility expires May 31, 2000. Power plants operate typically for 30 years. Big Rock Point began generating electricity in the early 1960s.

Consumers Power will plant, construct, and operate a tall, reinforced wall of the plant. The company intends to be the first utility in the nation to spend a commercial nuclear plant in the extended decommissioning period.

## The Facts on Big Rock Point

Big Rock Point is a 67 megawatt electric generating plant powered by a boiling water nuclear reactor.

The Charlevoix, Michigan facility is located on a 600-acre site on the Lake Michigan shoreline. It began generating electricity on December 8, 1962 and is the nation's longest-operating nuclear plant. Big Rock was the world's first high-power density boiling water power reactor and only the fifth commercial nuclear plant in the United States. In 1991 it was named a Nuclear Historic Landmark.

To make power, Big Rock Point uses a boiling water, cylindrical reactor that weighs 120 tons, and stands 30 feet tall and nine feet wide. Its steel walls are 5 1/2 inches thick.

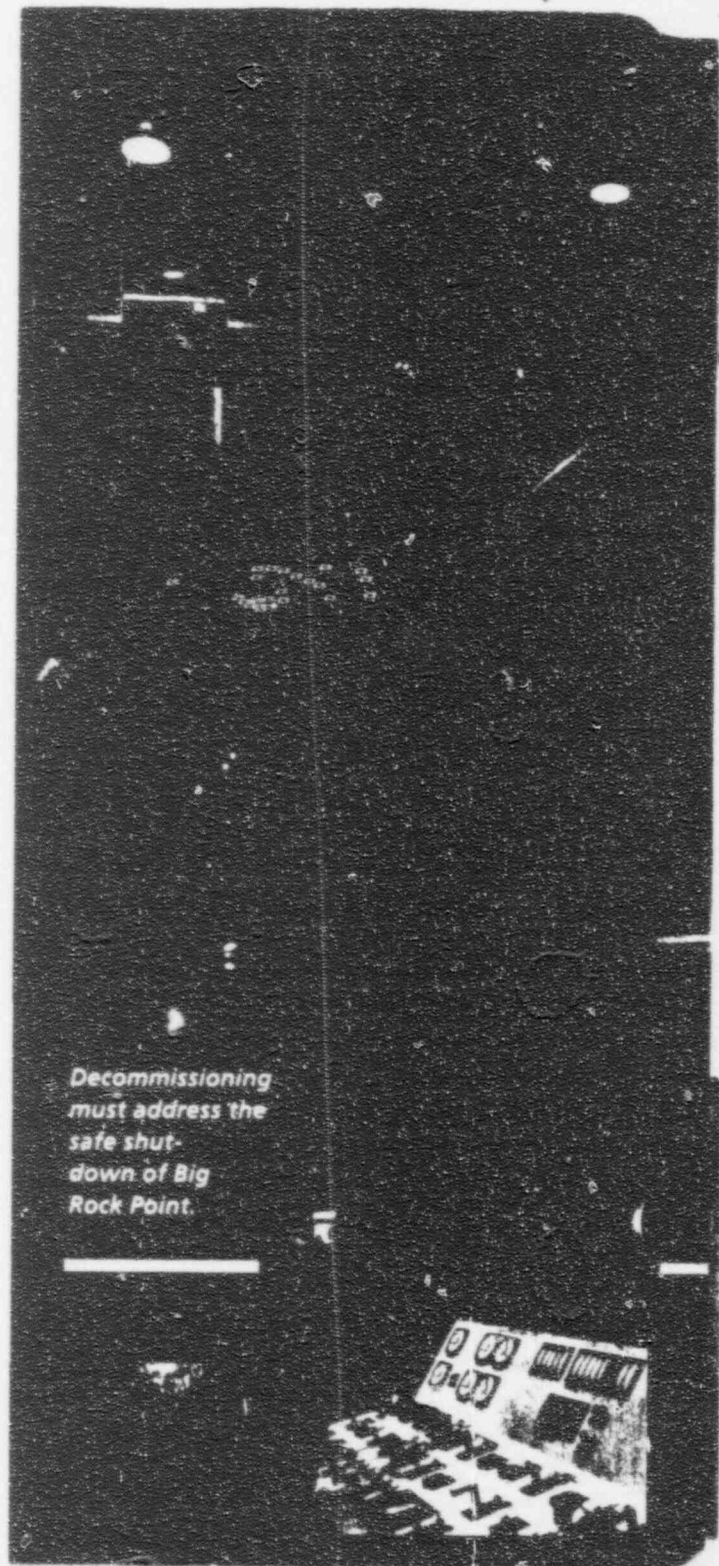
The reactor's fuel "core" consists of 84 bundles that contain more than 10 tons of slightly enriched uranium oxide pellets. Each bundle contains 117 fuel rods. A fuel rod is a six-foot stack of uranium oxide pellets sealed in a metal tube.

Nuclear energy is extremely efficient. A single load of fuel can generate the same amount of electricity as burning 260,000 tons of coal.

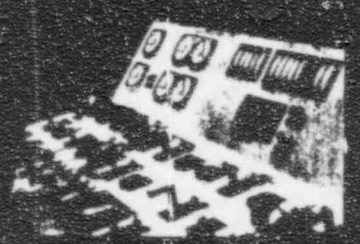
## What does "decommissioning" a nuclear power plant mean?

Decommissioning or retiring a nuclear plant can mean one of three options:

- Dismantling the plant and shipping all radioactive components to a nuclear waste disposal site.
- Mothballing a plant for up to 60 years, until radiation levels drop, then taking it apart and disposing of the radioactive materials, or
- Creating a solid concrete tomb over the entire nuclear reactor to prevent radiation from escaping until the radiation level is insignificant. Consumers Power Company has eliminated this option.



**Decommissioning must address the safe shut-down of Big Rock Point.**



NEED FOR ONE YEAR TURNAROUND OF PLAN BY NRC

<u>Stakeholders</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Employees	In order to retain a qualified plant staff through the end of license, the members of that staff need to know what the future holds in store for them. Timely approval of the plan allows them to see what is planned, how it impacts them and where they fit into the plans for Big Rock Point.
Customers	There is also the possibility of "rate shock" if we have to return to the MPSC at a later date for additional funding in the time between Decommissioning Plan approval and End of License.
Regulators: MPSC	In order to assure that there is adequate funding of the decommissioning activities by the Michigan Public Service Commission, we need to have timely approval of the plan since it is closely tied to our filing with the MPSC. If there are changes made to the plan after a ruling by the MPSC, there is a risk of the decommissioning being underfunded.
NRC:	Model for future plants as plans are submitted for decommissioning.  Impact of future regulatory changes.
Shareholders	Shareholder certainty on plans for Big Rock Point.

MEETING SUMMARY, FOR BIG ROCK POINT MEETING HELD ON 6/14/94

DATED: June 16, 1994

DISTRIBUTION W/ENCLOSURES 1, 2, AND 3

Docket File  
NRC & LPDRs  
PD31 Reading  
M. Phillips, RIII  
L. Olshan

cc: Licensee & Service List

DISTRIBUTION WITH ENCLOSURE 1 ONLY

W. Russell/F. Miraglia, 12/G/18  
L. Reyes, Acting  
J. Roe  
J. Zwolinski  
L. Marsh  
C. Jamerson  
OGC  
E. Jordan, MNBB-3701  
S. Bajwa, 10A9  
L. Bell, 5E4  
S. Brown, 11B10  
P. Erickson, 11B20  
ACRS (10)  
B. McCabe, EDO, 17G21