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U.S. NRC

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Protecting People and the Environment

NRC WEBINAR

APRIL 21, 2020

**INDIAN POINT
NUCLEAR POWER
PLANT
DECOMMISSIONING**



Today's Presenters



Bruce Watson



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Ted Carter



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NRC Staff Response to COVID-19

- NRC staff have been engaged with the industry (NEI and the Industry Working Group) on decommissioning and ISFSI-only facilities.
 - NRC management has communicated with NEI to ensure the industry maintains safety and security vigilance on decommissioning and ISFSI-only sites during these unusual times.
 - NRC Project Managers and the Regional Inspectors have frequent communications with the licensees on COVID-19 issues and are not aware of any issues that would affect public health and safety at decommissioning reactors.

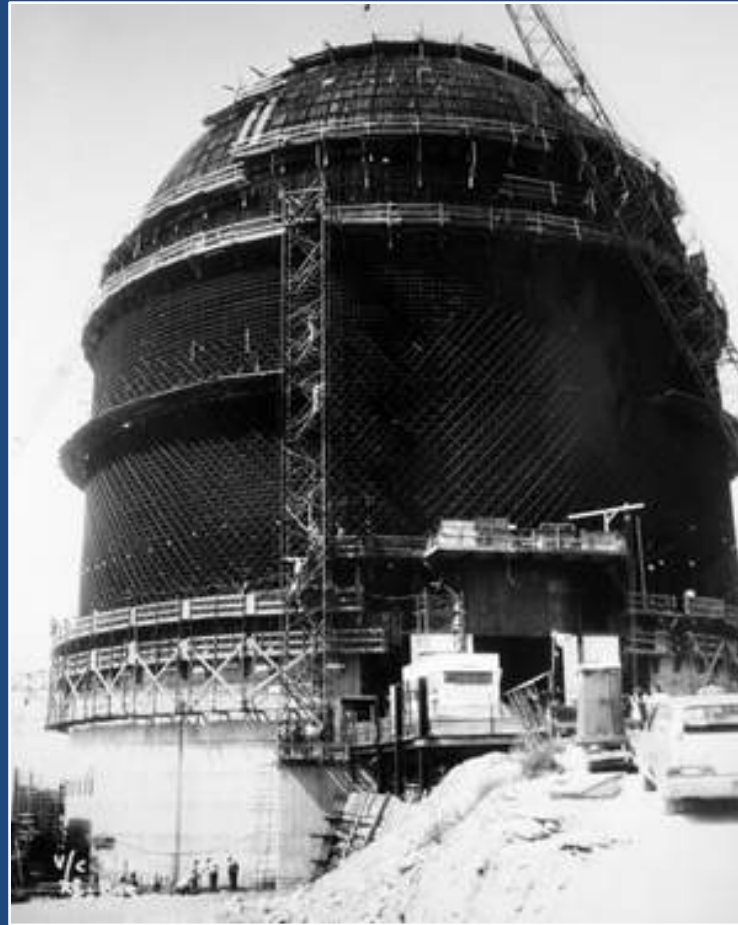
Indian Point History



- ❑ **March 26, 1962** – Operating license issued for Indian Point 1
- ❑ **Sept. 16, 1962** – Unit 1 begins operations
- ❑ **Oct. 31, 1974** – Unit 1 ceases operations

Indian Point History (cont'd.)

- ❑ **Oct. 14, 1966** – Construction permit issued for Indian Point 2
- ❑ **Aug. 1, 1974** – Unit 2 commences operations
- ❑ **January 2017** – Shutdown agreement announced
- ❑ **Sept. 17, 2018** – Unit 2 license is renewed by NRC



- ❑ **Aug. 14, 1969** – Construction permit issued for Indian Point 3
- ❑ **Aug. 30, 1976** – Unit 3 commences operations
- ❑ **January 2017** – Shutdown agreement announced
- ❑ **Sept. 17, 2018** – Unit 3 license renewed by NRC

Proposed Change in Ownership



- ❑ **April 2019** – Holtec and Entergy announce deal for Holtec to acquire and decommission Indian Point
- ❑ **Nov. 21, 2019** – NRC receives license transfer application
- ❑ **Jan. 3, 2020** – NRC accepts application for formal review

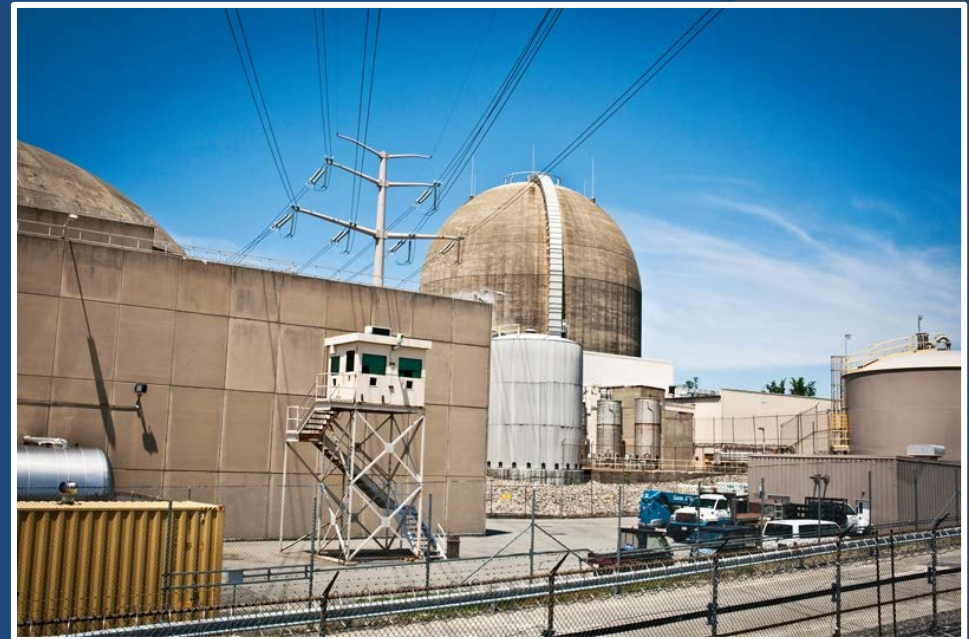
Hearing Requests

Requests for a hearing on license transfer application remain under consideration by the Commission; NRC staff are considering comments received



Near-term Developments

- ❑ Certification of permanent cessation of operations
- ❑ Certification of permanent removal of fuel from reactor



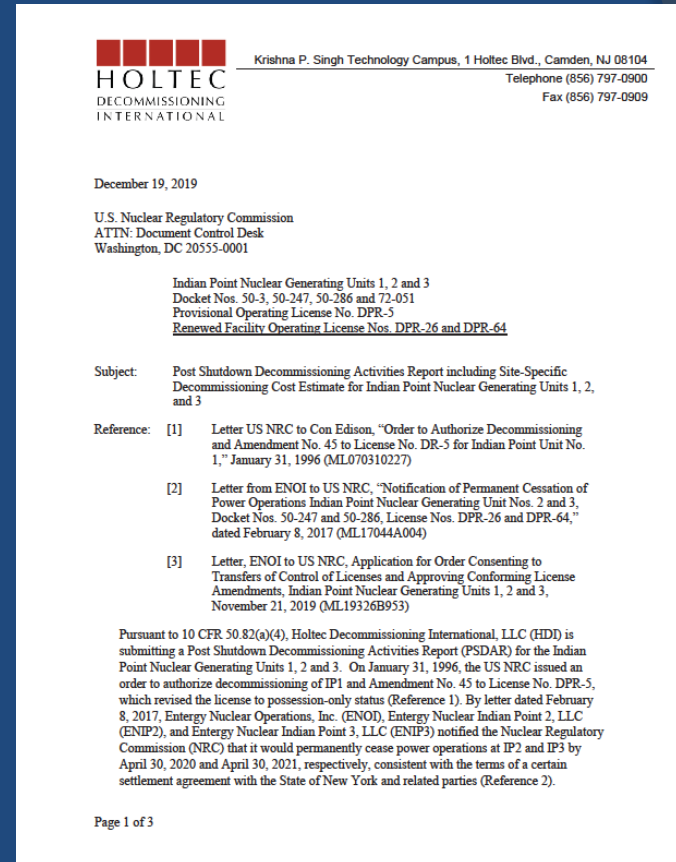
- ❑ Review of Post-Shutdown Decommissioning Activities Report (PSDAR)

Accession No. ML19354A698

Post-Shutdown Decommissioning Activities Report (PSDAR)

It should contain:

- ❑ Description of planned decommissioning activities
- ❑ High-level schedule of planned decommissioning activities
- ❑ Site-specific cost estimate for the decommissioning
- ❑ Environmental impacts of decommissioning



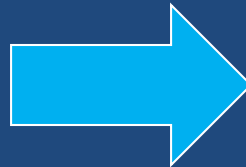
Reactor Decommissioning

The process of removing a reactor facility safely from the operating mode to a permanent shutdown condition and reducing the residual radioactivity to a level that permits the release of the property for unrestricted use and termination of the license

BEFORE



Maine Yankee



AFTER



Decommissioning Options



- ❑ **DECON** – Equipment, structures, etc., are removed or decontaminated to a level that permits unrestricted release
- ❑ **SAFSTOR** – Plant is placed in a safe, stable condition and maintained in this state until it is subsequently decontaminated to levels that permit unrestricted release

How Long to Decommission?



Under NRC regulations, the process must be completed within 60 years

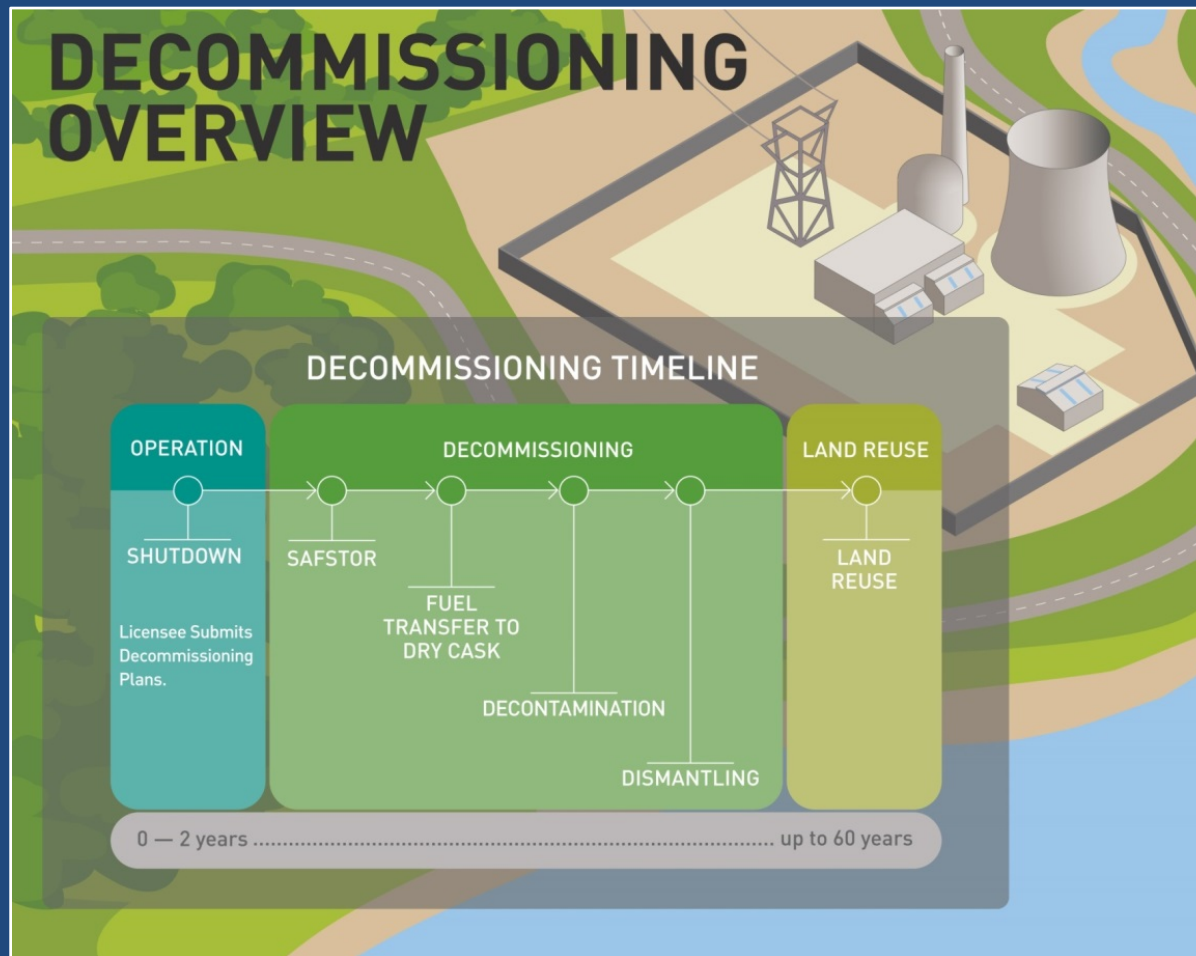
Guiding Principles of Decommissioning



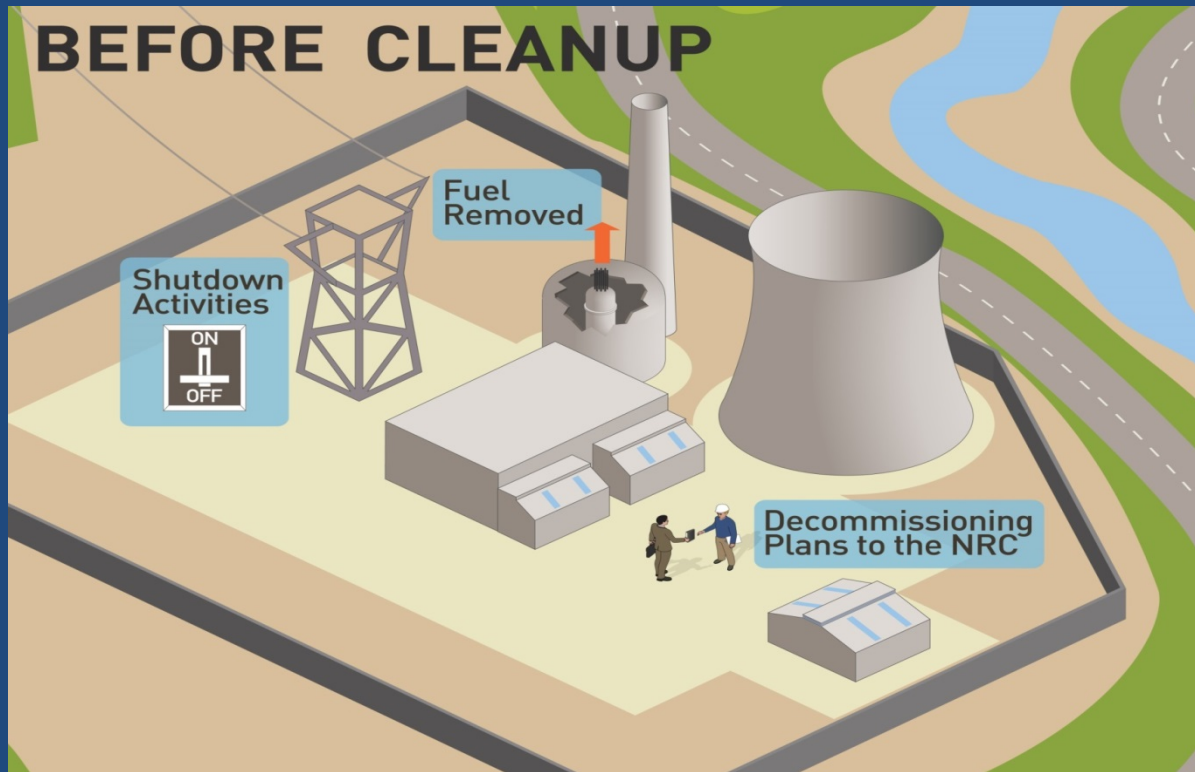
- ❑ Protection of plant & workers
- ❑ Protection of the public
- ❑ Communications & outreach with external stakeholders



Decommissioning Process - Phases



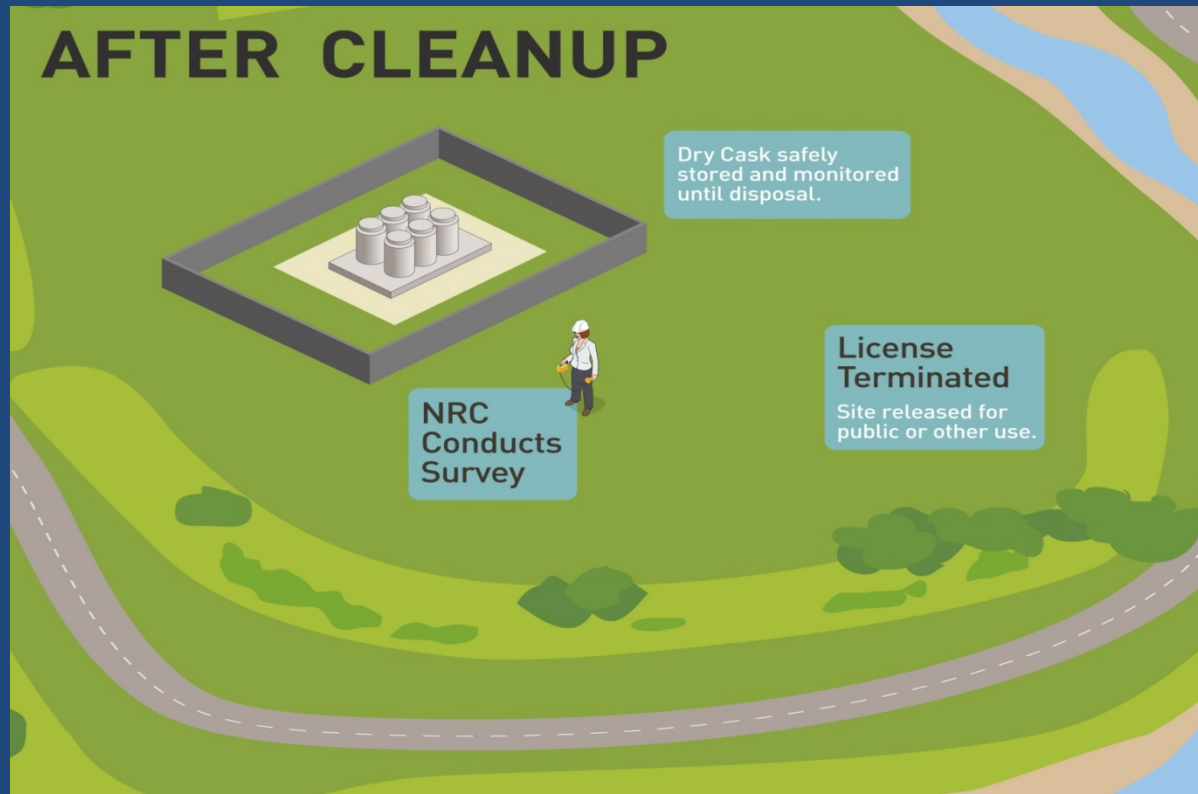
- ❑ Before Cleanup
- ❑ During Cleanup
- ❑ After Cleanup



- ❑ Ready the plant for decommissioning
- ❑ Move spent nuclear fuel to dry cask storage
- ❑ Submit & update PSDAR



- ❑ Removal of structures & components
- ❑ Soil remediation
- ❑ Radioactive waste shipments



- ❑ Site restoration
- ❑ NRC license termination
- ❑ Spent fuel management-
Independent Spent Fuel Storage
Installation

Power Reactors in Decommissioning

- ❑ 13 units in active decommissioning
- ❑ 10 units in SAFSTOR
- ❑ **INDIAN POINT** began planning for decommissioning after it notified NRC

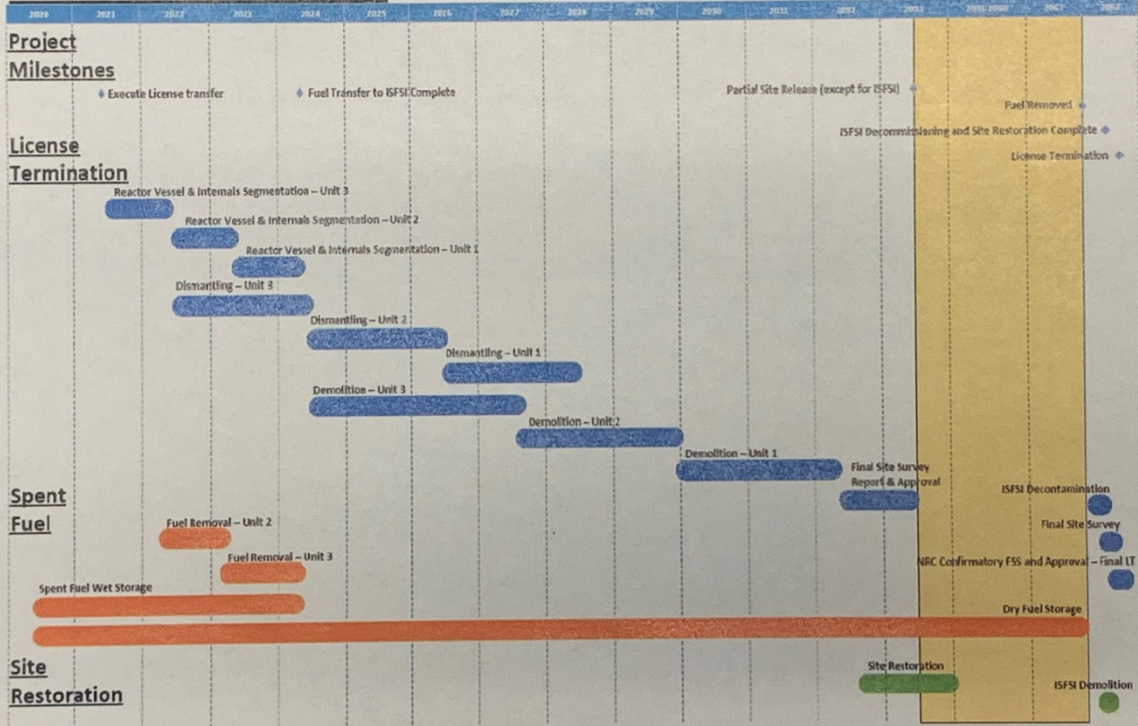


Indian Point Decommissioning Schedule & Cost Summary

Indian Point Energy Center DECON Post-Shutdown Decommissioning Activities Report

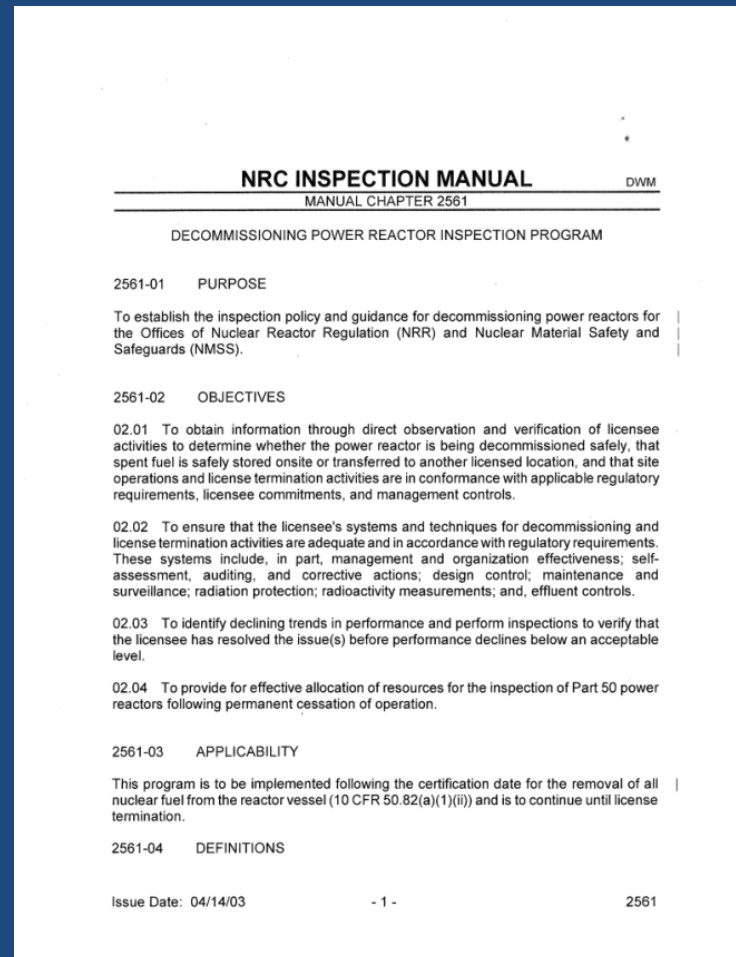
Figure 3-1 IP1, 2 & 3 Decommissioning Schedule

Indian Point - Decommissioning



Oversight Program After Shutdown

- ❑ Oversight and monitoring conducted over the entire period of decommissioning process
- ❑ Oversight program is described in Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 2561 & 2690



Oversight Program After Shutdown

- ❑ Decommissioning inspection program includes both core and discretionary inspections

- ❑ Implementation depends on activities being planned or performed.
 - Post-Operation Transition Phase
 - Actively Decommissioning – Fuel in Spent Fuel Pool
 - Actively Decommissioning – No Fuel in Spent Fuel Pool
 - SAFSTOR – Fuel in Spent Fuel Pool
 - SAFSTOR – No Fuel in Spent Fuel Pool
 - Final Surveys under way



How Does Emergency Planning Change?



- Emergency preparedness remains
- 'All hazards' approach utilized vs. formal pre-planned off-site radiological response plans

How will plant security change?



- ❑ Security controls remain in place
- ❑ Some key features include: intrusion detection and response, assessment of alarms, and off-site assistance, when necessary

What Happens to the Spent Fuel?

- ❑ Removed from spent fuel pool
- ❑ Stored on-site in dry cask storage systems
- ❑ Safety and security programs remain until fuel removed from site



NRC ISFSI Inspection Program



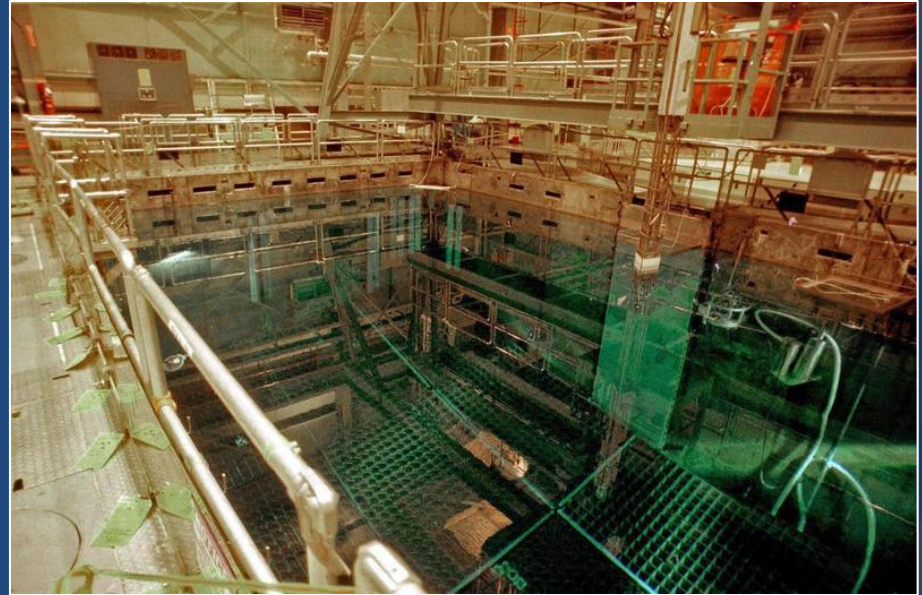
- Inspections performed according to guidance in Inspection Manual Chapter 2690
- Inspections cover all activities related to ISFSIs from design to operation

NRC ISFSI Inspection Program (cont'd.)



Is the Spent Fuel Pool Safe?

- ❑ Robust structures
- ❑ Designed to withstand severe natural events
- ❑ Regulated design features & operational practices implemented to maintain fuel in safe condition



How Does the NRC Make Decisions on Post-Shutdown Changes?



Public Involvement on Decommissioning

- ❑ Public meeting to discuss the decommissioning process and the plant's PSDAR
- ❑ NRC staff typically provide briefings at meetings of state/citizen decommissioning advisory panels
- ❑ An opportunity for a hearing
- ❑ Public meeting on License Termination Plan

NRC References

DECOMMISSIONING POWER REACTOR INSPECTION PROGRAM

2561-01 PURPOSE
To establish the inspection policy and guidance for decommissioning power reactors for the Offices of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) and Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS).

2561-02 OBJECTIVES
02.01 To obtain information through direct observation and verification of licensee activities to determine whether the power reactor is being decommissioned safely, that spent fuel is safely stored onsite or transferred to another licensed location, and that site operations and license termination activities are in conformance with applicable regulatory requirements, licensee commitments, and management controls.

02.02 To ensure that the licensee's systems and techniques for decommissioning and license termination activities are adequate and in accordance with regulatory requirements. These systems include, in part, management and organization effectiveness; self-assessment, auditing, and corrective actions; design control; maintenance and surveillance; radiation protection; radioactivity measurements; and, effluent controls.

02.03 To identify declining trends in performance and perform inspections to verify that the licensee has resolved the issue(s) before performance declines below an acceptable level.

02.04 To provide for effective allocation of resources for the inspection of Part 50 power reactors following permanent cessation of operation.

2561-03 APPLICABILITY
This program is to be implemented following the certification date for the removal of all nuclear fuel from the reactor vessel (10 CFR 50.82(a)(1)(ii)) and is to continue until license termination.

2561-04 DEFINITIONS

Issue Date: 04/14/03 - 1 -

June 2013
Revision 1

REGULATORY GUIDE 1.185
(Draft was issued as DG-1271, dated December 2012)

STANDARD FORMAT AND CONTENT FOR
POST-SHUTDOWN DECOMMISSIONING ACTIVITIES
REPORT

A. INTRODUCTION

Purpose

This regulatory guide identifies the type of information that the post-shutdown decommissioning activities report (PSDAR) must contain and establishes a standard format for the PSDAR that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff considers acceptable. This regulatory guide applies only to holders of licenses to operate nuclear power reactors under Parts 50 (Ref. 1) and 52 (Ref. 2) of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) and they may use this standard format to prepare PSDARs.

Applicable Rules and Regulations

- 10 CFR Part 50 provides for the NRC's domestic licensing of production and utilization facilities.
 - 10 CFR 50.2 provides definitions.
 - 10 CFR 50.4 provides the requirements for written communications.
 - 10 CFR 50.54 provides the conditions for a license.
 - 10 CFR 50.75 provides the requirements for reporting and recordkeeping for decommissioning planning.
 - 10 CFR 50.82 provides the requirements for termination of a license including a requirement for nuclear power reactor licensees to submit a PSDAR.

Written suggestions regarding this guide or development of new guides may be submitted through the NRC's public Web site under the Regulatory Guide document collection of the NRC Library at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/reg-guides/collection.html>.

Electronic copies of this regulatory guide, previous versions of this guide, and other recently issued guides are available through the NRC's public Web site under the Regulatory Guide document collection of the NRC Library at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/reg-guides/collection.html>. The regulatory guide is in the System for ADAMS at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/reg-guides/collection.html> and may be found in ADAMS under Accession No. 141141482.



2019-2020 INFORMATION DIGEST



NUREG-1628

October 2013
Revision 1
Technical Lead
James Shepley

REGULATORY GUIDE 1.184
(Draft was issued as DG-1271, dated February 2012)
DECOMMISSIONING OF NUCLEAR POWER REACTORS

A. INTRODUCTION

Purpose

This regulatory guide provides guidance on the actions required of U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) licensees to decommission nuclear power reactors licensed under the provisions of Part 50 (Ref. 1) and Part 52 (Ref. 2) of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR).

Applicable Rules and Regulations

- 10 CFR Part 50 provides for the NRC's domestic licensing of production and utilization facilities.
 - 10 CFR 50.2 provides definitions.
 - 10 CFR 50.4 provides the requirements for written communications.
 - 10 CFR 50.54 provides the conditions for a license.
 - 10 CFR 50.75 provides the requirements for reporting and recordkeeping for decommissioning planning.
 - 10 CFR 50.82 provides the requirements for termination of a license including a requirement for nuclear power reactor licensees to submit a Post-Shutdown Decommissioning Activities Report (PSDAR).
- 10 CFR Part 51 (Ref. 3) provides the requirements for environmental protection regulations for the NRC's domestic licensing and related regulatory functions.

Written suggestions regarding this guide or development of new guides may be submitted through the NRC's public Web site under the Regulatory Guide document collection of the NRC Library at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/reg-guides/collection.html>.

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Staff Responses to Frequently Asked Questions Concerning Decommissioning of Nuclear Power Plants

Final Report

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Washington, DC 20555-0001



Decommissioning Nuclear Power Plants

When a power company decides to close a nuclear power plant permanently, the facility must be decommissioned by safely removing it from service and reducing residual radioactivity to a level that permits release of the property and termination of the operating license. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has strict rules governing nuclear power plant decommissioning, involving cleanup of radioactively contaminated plant systems and structures, and removal of the radioactive fuel. These requirements protect workers and the public during the entire decommissioning process and the public after the license is terminated.

Discussion

Licensees may choose from three decommissioning strategies: DECON, SAFSTOR, or ENTOMB.

Under DECON (immediate dismantling), soon after the nuclear facility closes, equipment, structures, and portions of the facility containing radioactive contaminants are removed or decontaminated to a level that permits release of the property and termination of the NRC license.

Under SAFSTOR, often considered "deferred dismantling," a nuclear facility is maintained and monitored in a condition that allows the radioactivity to decay; afterwards, the plant is dismantled and the property decontaminated.

Under ENTOMB, radioactive contaminants are permanently encased on site in structurally sound material such as concrete. The facility is maintained and monitored until the radioactivity decays to a level permitting restricted release of the property. To date, no NRC-licensed facilities have requested this option.

The licensee may also choose to adopt a combination of the first two choices in which some portions of the facility are dismantled or decontaminated while other parts of the facility are left in SAFSTOR. The decision may be based on factors besides radioactive decay, such as availability of waste disposal sites.

Decommissioning must be completed within 60 years of the plant ceasing operations. A time beyond that would be considered only when necessary to protect public health and safety in accordance with NRC regulations.



Demolition of a Reactor Containment Building

Links for NRC References

- ❑ [IMC 2561: Decommissioning Power Reactor Inspection Program](#)
- ❑ [RG 1.184: Decommissioning of Nuclear Power Reactors](#)
- ❑ [NUREG 1628: Staff Responses to FAQs Concerning Decommissioning of Nuclear Power Reactors](#)
- ❑ [NRC Backgrounder: Decommissioning of Nuclear Power Plants](#)
- ❑ [NRC YouTube Video on Decommissioning](#)

Questions

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