

UNIT D STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION REGION III 759 ROOSEVELT ROAD GLEN ELLYN, ILLINGIS 60137

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MEMORANDUM FOR: L. C. Shao, Deputy Director, Division of Engineering Safety, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

FROM: James G. Keppler, Regional Administrator, Region III

SUBJECT: FINAL RULE AMENDMENT 10 10 CFR PARTS 30, 40, 50, 51. 70, and 72 ON GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR DECOMMISSIONING NUCLL... FACILITIES

Region III has reviewed and endorses the proposed final decommissioning rule. In the case of power reactors we believe the major benefit of the rule will be the establishment of framework for utility planning. It will force utility management to take positive steps to plan for decommissioning. We have reservations about the internal reserve method of funding but can accept it in the interest of getting a rule as soon as possible.

For materials licensees, we expect a major benefit will be to deter small business entities from engaging in activities with large quantities of radioactive material which they are ill prepared to handle. Had this rule been in effect earlier, Region III would not have had the problems with Luminous Processes, Inc. or J. C. Haynes that occurred. Avoidance of this type of problem will save the NRC significant resources.

We believe the change to 10 CFR 20 is needed to establish residual radioactivity levels. For power plants this will contribute only slightly to final costs but it could have a significant impact on materials licensees depending on the residual level established.

If you have any questions on our comments, the Region III contact is Carl J. Paperiello (FTS 388-5517).

Dames & Keppler

Regional Administrator

See Attached Distribution

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- cc: R. E. Cunningham, NMSS/FC R. E. Browning, NMSS/WM R. F. Lurnett, NMSS/SG W. J. Olmstead, OGC D. A. Nash, SP/SLR D. A. Nussbaumer, SP/SA T. P. Speis, NRR/SRO (4) D. Grimsley, ADM/DRR J. G. Partlow, IE/DI B. K. Grimes, IE/QAVT T. E. Murley, RI J. N. Grace, RII R. D. Martin, RIV
  - J. B. Martin, RV

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