

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
REGARDING PROPOSED ORDER AUTHORIZING DISMANTLING OF THE
REACTOR AND DISPOSITION OF COMPONENT PARTS
VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY
DOCKET NO. 50-124

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is considering issuance of an Order authorizing the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University to dismantle the Argonaut reactor facility in Blacksburg, Virginia and to dispose of the reactor components in accordance with the application dated July 17, 1986, as supplemented.

The Order would authorize the dismantling of the facility and disposal of the components in accordance with the application for decontamination and dismantling, dated July 17, 1986, as supplemented. Opportunity for hearing was afforded by the Proposed Issuance of Orders Authorizing Disposition of Component Parts and Termination of Facility License published in the FEDERAL REGISTER on August 26, 1986 at 51 FR 30455. No request for hearing or petition for leave to intervene was filed following notice of the proposed action.

Finding of No Significant Environmental Impact

The Commission has determined not to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed action. The Commission has prepared an

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Environmental Assessment of this action, dated October 29, 1986, and has concluded that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

Summary of Environmental Impacts

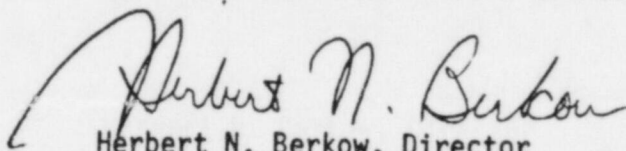
The environmental impacts associated with the dismantling and decontamination operations are discussed in an Environmental Assessment associated with this action, dated October 29, 1986. The operations are calculated to result in a total radiation exposure of less than 2 person-rem to facility staff and the public. The Environmental Assessment concluded that the operation will not result in any significant environmental impacts on air, water, land or biota in the area, and that an Environmental Impact Statement need not be prepared. These conclusions were based on the fact that all proposed operations are carefully planned and controlled, all contaminated components will be removed, packaged, and shipped offsite, and that the radiological effluent control procedures and systems ensure that releases of radioactive wastes from the facility are a small fraction of the limits of 10 CFR Part 20 and are as low as is reasonable achievable (ALARA).

For further details with respect to this proposed action, see the application for dismantling, decontamination and license termination dated July 17, 1986, as supplemented, the Environmental Assessment, and the Safety Evaluation prepared by the staff. These documents and this Finding of No Significant Environmental Impact are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street N.W., Washington, D. C. 20555.

Copies may be obtained upon request addressed to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D. C. 20555, ATTENTION: Director, Division of PWR Licensing-B.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland this 29th day of October, 1986.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Herbert N. Berkow". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Herbert N. Berkow, Director
Standardization and Special
Projects Directorate
Division of PWR Licensing-B
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation