

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

May 25, 2021

The Honorable Christopher T. Hanson  
Chairman  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Congratulations on your appointment to Chairman of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). We look forward to working with you on the important issues considered at the NRC. We write to you today regarding the NRC's rulemaking entitled *Regulatory Improvements for Production and Utilization Facilities Transitioning to Decommissioning* (Docket ID: SECY-18-0055).

We appreciate the NRC's attention to the decommissioning process and urge consideration of issues important to our states and districts before the final rule is issued. The decommissioning of a nuclear power plant has a significant impact on a host community, making it critical that the rules surrounding this process be comprehensive, transparent, and inclusive.

Specifically, we urge you to include the following items in the final rule:

- increased community involvement by requiring licensees of decommissioning reactors to include state and local officials' input into, and for the NRC to formally approve or reject, licensees' decommissioning plans, and license transfers.
- licensee financial support of decommissioning Citizen Advisory Boards.
- regulations to ensure the Nuclear Decommissioning Trust (NDT) is used strictly for statutorily authorized purposes.
- a requirement to remove spent nuclear fuel from wet storage and placed into safer dry cask storage as quickly as possible, and a prohibition on the drawdown of funds from the NDT for this purpose.
- a requirement that both radiological and non-radiological decommissioning and site restoration are completed as promptly as possible; prompt decommissioning (DECON), should be the preferred NRC policy over deferred decommissioning (SAFSTOR). This should include requirements that the NDT be sufficient for prompt decommissioning upon permanent cessation of operations.

- a requirement that all emergency preparedness and response and security resources and licensing requirements remain in place until all the spent nuclear fuel is placed into safer dry cask storage.

To further address our concerns, we will continue to pursue and support legislative action that improves local community involvement in the decommissioning process. And, as the current wave of nuclear plant closures continues, it will be critical for communities who have already gone through the decommissioning process to provide guidance to communities unfamiliar with closure, decommissioning, and waste storage matters and offer input to federal agencies responsible for engaging with and supporting these communities. Additionally, we must work to ensure that host communities can access federal resources, and that their economic development challenges are comprehensively addressed so they can thrive after plant shutdown.

We urge NRC to address our concerns via this rulemaking and future regulatory actions. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,



PETER WELCH  
Member of Congress



PATRICK LEAHY  
U.S. Senator



RICHARD E. NEAL  
Member of Congress



BERNARD SANDERS  
U.S. Senator



BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER  
Member of Congress



KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND  
U.S. Senator



MIKE LEVIN  
Member of Congress



EDWARD J. MARKEY  
U.S. Senator

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JAMES P. McGOVERN

Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mondaire Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mondaire" and last name "Jones" clearly legible.

MONDAIRE JONES

Member of Congress