



U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
**34<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL REGULATORY  
INFORMATION CONFERENCE**

**MARCH 8-10, 2022**

**PREPARING FOR  
TOMORROW**

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# **Looking Forward in the Reactor Decommissioning Program**

**Session W14**

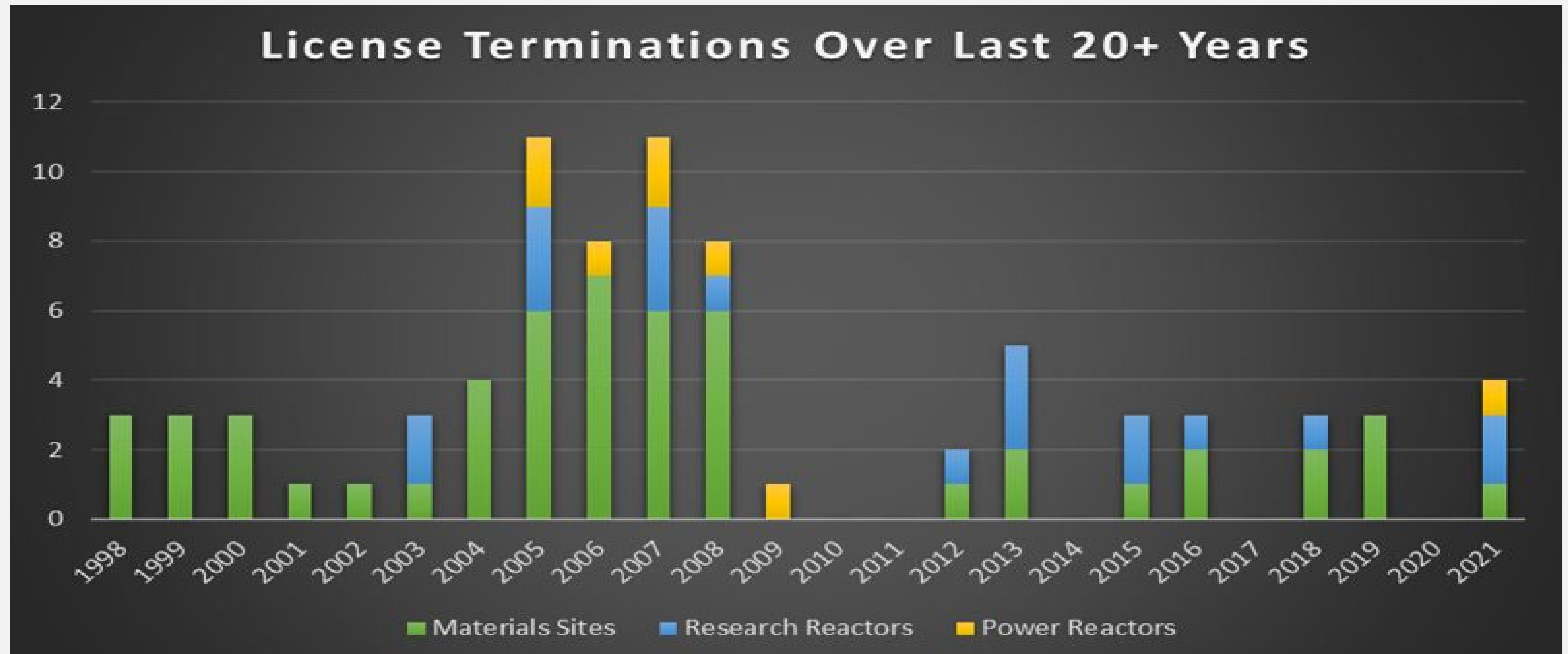
**Reactor Decommissioning Planning for Tomorrow**

**Bruce A. Watson, CHP**

**Chief, Reactor Decommissioning Branch**



# In 2022, the License Termination Rule will be 25 years old







## 2021 Decommissioning Accomplishments

- Humboldt Bay license termination
- General Atomics Mark F and Mark I license terminations
- Sigma Aldridge license termination
- Indian Point Units 2 and 3 transferred to NMSS
- Indian Point Postshutdown Decommissioning Activities Report Public Meeting
- Duane Arnold Postshutdown Decommissioning Activities Report Public Meeting
- Preparation for the Palisades permanent shutdown
- Completion of over 40 reactor decommissioning licensing actions in 2021

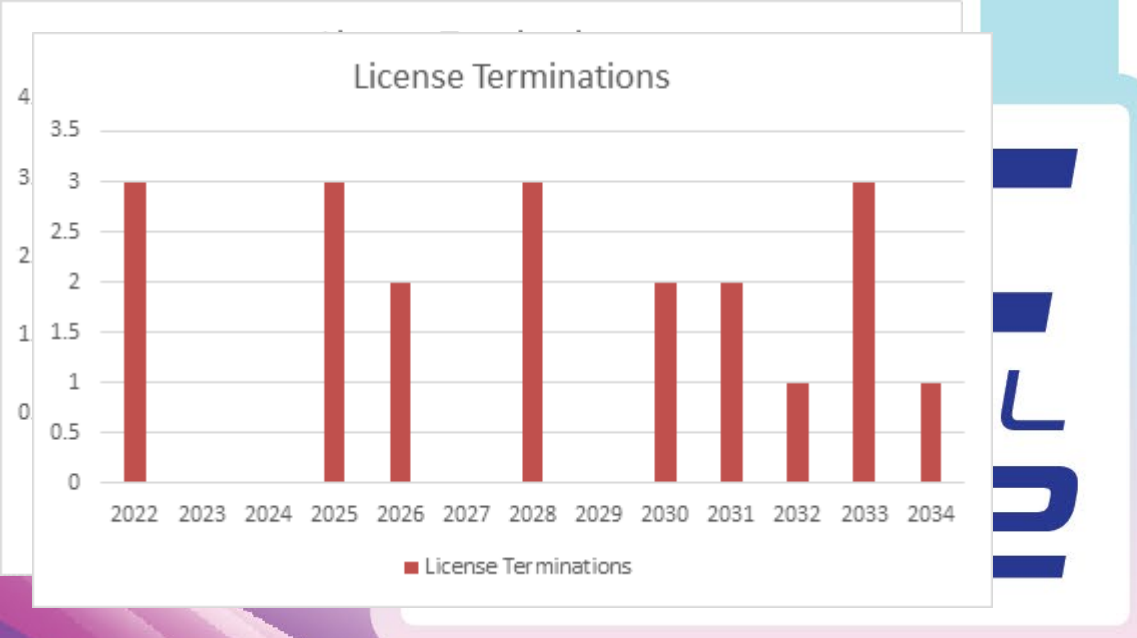




## Looking Forward: Communications with Stakeholders

- Communications with State and local officials
- Decommissioning Community Advisory Boards/engagement panels
- Continued NRC participation in Community Advisory Board meetings, when invited
- Continued engagement by the Office of Public Affairs with news media and use of social media
- Continued engagement by the Office of Congressional Affairs with congressional staff
- Frequent government-to-government meetings
  - NRC State Liaison Officers in contact with State and local officials
  - NRC Tribal Liaisons in contact with Native American Tribes





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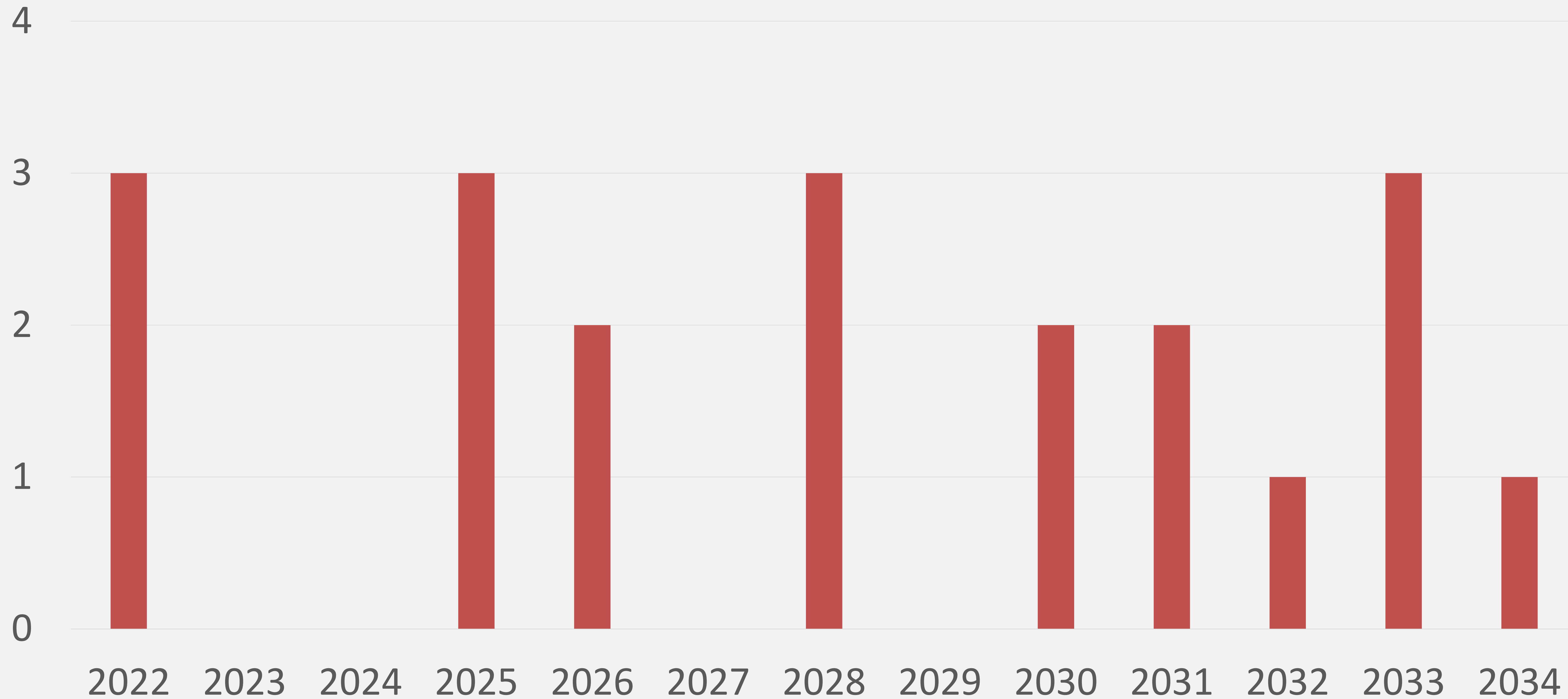
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# Looking Forward: Projected License Terminations

Projected License Terminations

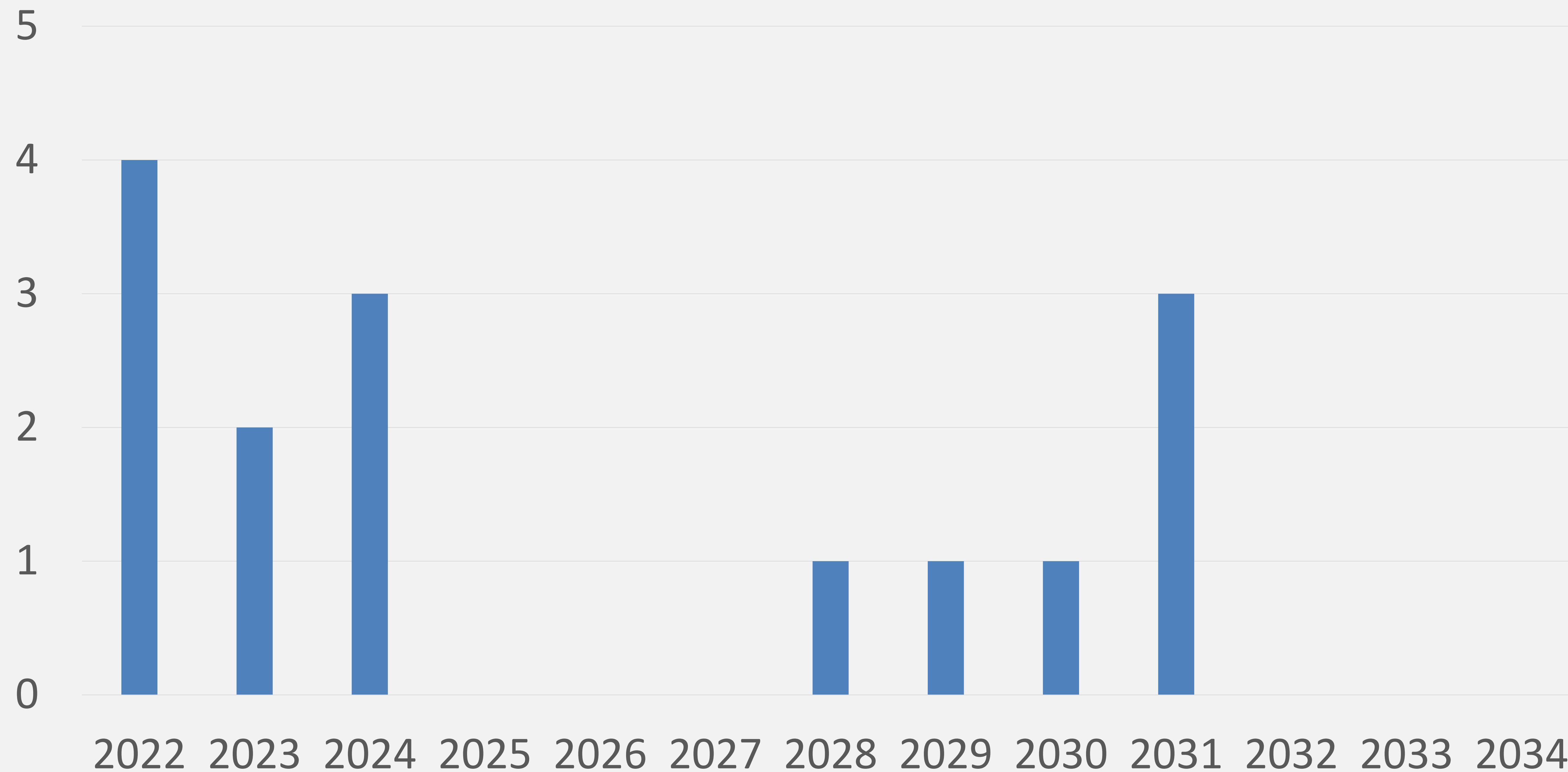






# Looking Forward: Projected License Termination Plans

Projected License Termination Plans







## Looking Forward: Smart Licensing

- Smart Licensing
  - Licensee presubmittal meetings
  - Staff acceptance reviews
  - Reviews of draft requests for additional information to ensure understanding
  - Planned early site visits by NRC staff!
- Reminder: Your license termination plans





## Looking Forward: Addressing NRC Resource Needs

- Reactor Decommissioning Strategic Budget Plan
  - Decommissioning Project Managers
  - Decommissioning Health Physicists
  - Risk Analysts
- Nuclear Regulator Apprenticeship Network
- Comprehensive Health Physics (HP) Training Program
- NRC regional offices consolidated Reactor Operating HP and Decommissioning HP Inspectors
- Decommissioning staff cross-qualified as Decommissioning Inspectors



## Conclusions: Challenging Years Ahead

- With the number of license termination plans expected, licensees need to plan to allow for adequate NRC staff time to complete licensing requests
- Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act (NEIMA) reporting to Congress makes it incumbent on licensees to provide quality license termination plans
- Should there be more license transfers to accelerate decommissioning?
- Should industry share lessons learned and best practices?
- Are there adequate technical resources?
- How will the potential approval of spent fuel consolidated interim storage applications impact the decommissioning of the reactor sites?