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Regulatory Improvements for Production and Utilization Facilities Transitioning to Decommissioning

Comment On: NRC-2015-0070-0229

Regulatory Improvements for Production and Utilization Facilities Transitioning to Decommissioning

Document: NRC-2015-0070-DRAFT-0300

Comment on FR Doc # 2022-03131

Submitter Information

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Government Agency: Grundy Economic Development Council

General Comment

See attached file(s)

Attachments

Aug 2022 GEDC Comment on NRC Proposed Rule Change



August 25, 2022

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001
Attn: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff

Subject: GEDC Comments on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Proposed Rule Regarding Regulatory Improvements for Production and Utilization Facilities Transitioning to Decommissioning - Docket Number: NRC-2015-0070

To Whom It May Concern:

We write on behalf of the Grundy Economic Development Council (GEDC), located in Grundy County, Illinois, to register this comment on Proposed Rule NRC-2015-0070 to advocate for rulemaking and policies which demonstrate an awareness that the decommissioning of nuclear facilities has effects which reach beyond the technical safety and security considerations of facility closure. As an economic development organization in a region which hosts three operational nuclear facilities, **we ask that the NRC expand the scope of this proposed rule change to make community input, impact, and recovery part of the decommissioning rules and process.**

Nuclear facilities are foundational to the economies of their communities. The revenue they generate funds school districts, emergency services, and municipalities – in some cases, these taxing districts receive the majority of their funding from the area nuclear facility. They provide well-compensated, specialized-skill employment to many. Safe decommissioning must be about *more* than protection from exposure to nuclear waste – closure can mean a nuclear facility-sized hole in the local economy and standard of living. The NRC has an opportunity to more comprehensively realize its mandate to protect the public by ensuring that provisions are in place for the communities which are harmed by decommissioning.

The GEDC asks that the NRC use its rulemaking power to facilitate the creation of an economic “runway” for host communities facing decommissioning by:

- **Designating and defining the community’s role** during the decommissioning process, **giving community leaders and stakeholders a seat at the table** and more control over decision-making which affects the community as a whole;
- **Providing safeguards for and requiring input from communities affected by the sale of nuclear assets to decommissioning companies** which do not have longstanding relationships with host communities and are not otherwise incentivized to consider community impacts;
- **Requiring that the entity decommissioning the plant allocate funding from its decommissioning fund** for measures like economic and environmental impact assessments, job retraining programs, redevelopment projects for the creative reuse of site-adjacent land, and other projects designed to **ameliorate the negative economic impacts of plant closure.**



Grundy County
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Without these regulatory requirements, companies decommissioning facilities are not incentivized to engage with the community and close their facilities in a way which leaves the community economically viable. With this kind of support, however, communities can more effectively recover from decommissioning and transition their economies.

The NRC's consideration of this comment and request is greatly appreciated. Should you require additional information or commentary on this matter, our office would willingly oblige.

Sincerely,



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CC:

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth, U.S. Senator – Illinois

The Honorable Richard Durbin, U.S. Senator – Illinois

The Honorable Adam Kinzinger, U.S. Representative – Illinois, 16th District