



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

March 15, 1978

Honorable Joseph M. Hendrie
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

SUBJECT: REPORT ON DECOMMISSIONING OF NUCLEAR FACILITIES

Dear Dr. Hendrie:

For some time, the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards has been active in a review of problems associated with the decommissioning of nuclear facilities. For example, the Committee referred to this matter in its report on the Platform Mounted Nuclear Plant, dated November 15, 1972, and in its report on the General Electric Standard Safety Analysis Report (GESSAR-238) dated March 14, 1975. Decommissioning was also the subject of a Subcommittee meeting held in Washington, D.C., on June 29, 1977. In addition it was considered at the 214th and 215th meetings of the full Committee held on February 9-11 and March 9-10, 1978, respectively. During the 214th meeting, the Committee discussed this item with representatives of the NRC Staff and the Atomic Industrial Forum, Inc.

As a result of these interactions, the Committee has had an opportunity to review NRC activities in this area. The Committee expresses its agreement with the increasing importance that the NRC Staff is assigning to this topic and its concurrence in the selection of the following specific items for implementation:

1. That the NRC Staff conduct a review of decommissioning problems associated with all types of nuclear facilities, including waste burial sites, so that priorities can be established for addressing those problems requiring primary attention. These efforts should include consideration of the manner and extent to which decommissioning is site related.
2. That the NRC Staff seek the advice of utility managers, architect-engineers, and vendors in the selection and evaluation of decommissioning alternatives to assure that, for given facilities, a range of choices is considered. This is particularly important because of the wide range of projected costs (person-rem and financial) associated with different approaches.

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3. That these evaluations include an adequate review of problems associated with the management and disposition of the wastes resulting from decommissioning operations.
4. That the NRC Staff continue to develop criteria and standards for decommissioning.
5. That all such studies be designed to provide data that will enable licensees, suppliers, and architect-engineers to include in basic nuclear facility design key factors that will facilitate decommissioning operations.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephen Lawroski".

Stephen Lawroski
Chairman