  
NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE

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## NEI Perspectives on Efficient Decommissioning

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### Background

- On November 20, 2017, NRC issued the Regulatory Basis Document (RBD) for rulemaking proposing changes to decommissioning regulations.
- Stated objective in NRC's Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) is "to implement appropriate regulatory changes that reduce the number of licensing actions needed during decommissioning."



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### Industry Position

- RBD provides sound foundation for regulatory improvements needed to meet NRC's stated objective, but leaves the door open to changes that could add unnecessary regulatory burden
  - Recommendations support replacement of licensing actions for shut down plants with new regulations enhancing efficiency and certainty for NRC and licensees
  - Some concerns with proposal
  - Additional opportunities



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### Industry Concerns

- Some RBD recommendations could impose burdensome new guidance or requirements not necessary to assure safety or reduce regulatory burden:
  - Post Shutdown Decommissioning Activities Report (PSDAR) and related Guidance
  - Physical Security



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### PSDAR – Environmental Impacts

- Modified language in 10 CFR 50.82(a)(4) to state that licensees must:
  - Evaluate the environmental impacts of planned decommissioning activities in the PSDAR
  - Evaluate if the impacts are bounded by previous federally issued environmental review documents



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### PSDAR – Community Advisory Board

- Address the creation of community advisory boards including details on frequency, makeup, and topics
  - No increase in public safety or efficiency
  - Community interaction is a site-specific consideration
  - Changes to PSDAR content should be driven by need to better inform the agency's regulatory decisions
  - No deficiencies noted by NRC in current guidance for PSDARs hindering regulatory decision-making



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## PSDAR – Spent Fuel Management

- Additional discussion in the PSDAR or Spent Fuel Management Plan to address
  - Management of spent fuel before dismantling systems for handling and shipping fuel.
  - Adds new burden to prepare and submit the PSDAR while not adding any safety benefit.



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## Physical Security

- NRC disposition of NEI comments on minimum number of armed responders diverges from the stated objective of rulemaking.
  - Final RBD proposes no changes to the inefficient process where licensees submit reassessment of the minimum number of armed responders although NRC recognizes the significant reduction in risk and targets
  - Allowing licensee reassessments to be documented in changes to security plans under 10 CFR 50.54(p) lessens the regulatory burden on staff and licensees and streamlines process for adjusting security requirements



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## Value Proposition

- Decommissioning Rulemaking that addresses inefficiencies without adding burden:
  - Saves 90+/- U.S. operating plants nearly \$1.5 billion
  - Reduces transition process time, now 12-18 months
  - Preserves decommissioning trust fund for radiological decommissioning
  - Reduces need to do it prematurely by doing it more efficiently!



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## Conclusion

- NEI strongly urges NRC to:
  - Complete rulemaking to improve the efficiency of the transition from operations to decommissioning as expeditiously as possible.
  - Utilize NEI response to the ANPR in developing the final rule language
  - Continue timely review of exemptions and license amendments until rulemaking is complete



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*Questions?*



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