

# **Power Reactor Decommissioning Rulemaking**

Massachusetts State Senator Daniel A. Wolf  
Cape and Islands District

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Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station has announced  
that it will close no later than June 2019

- ★ = Pilgrim Location
- = Cape & Islands District
- = State Boundary

# **Decommissioning Goals from a State Perspective**

- Safe removal of fuel from the reactor vessel
- Transfer fuel from the spent fuel pool to dry cask storage
- Clean up and rehabilitate the site for productive use, consistent with community goals, as quickly as practicable
- Give the public, the state and local authorities a voice in the process
- Continue appropriate monitoring, emergency preparedness, and evacuation planning during the process
- Ensure that the economics of decommissioning reflect best public policy for the citizens, not investor interests

# Suggested Regulatory Approach for Decommissioning

- Require licensees to prepare a more detailed site-specific Post-Shutdown Decommissioning Activities Report (“PSDAR”) that includes:
  - a site characterization
  - plans for site remediation and a description of the end use of the site, if restricted
  - plans for spent fuel management
  - a proposed timeline for the decommissioning activities that enables decommissioning to take place safely and as quickly as possible
    - prioritize immediate risks (e.g. eliminating high-density storage of irradiated fuel in spent fuel pools)
    - reflect up-to-date scientific evidence and technology
  - safety and emergency preparedness plans that reflect site-specific risks at various stages of decommissioning
    - require transition to dry cask storage before reducing emergency response or security requirements
  - cost estimates for decommissioning and spent fuel management

# **Suggested Regulatory Approach for Decommissioning**

- Require the formation of a community engagement/advisory panel.
- Require a public hearing, opportunity to comment and public input on a draft of the PSDAR and any subsequent requests to change or update the PSDAR.
- Require the NRC to analyze long term environmental impacts of the PSDAR prior to approval.
- Require local and/or state approval and NRC approval of the final PSDAR and any requests to change or update the PSDAR.

# **Suggested Changes to Decommissioning Trust Funds**

- Broaden the definition of legitimate decommissioning activities to include site restoration and spent fuel management.
- Allow Decommissioning Trust Funds to be used to move spent fuel from wet storage to dry cask; however, require licensees to replenish the Fund with any money recovered from the Department of Energy for this purpose.
- Do not allow the Fund to be used for other corporate expenses such as taxes and lobbying.

# **Suggested Changes to Decommissioning Trust Funds**

- To the extent possible, ensure that the parent company of the limited liability corporation (LLC) that manages a single nuclear power station be held accountable for cleanup costs.
- Clarify that non-radiological issues and issues unrelated to operational safety (site restoration, non-radiological cleanup, redevelopment planning) are subject to state and local oversight and not preempted.

# **Projected Pilgrim Nuclear Decommissioning Deficit**

Current Trust Fund has approximately **\$900 million**

Current Expected Decommissioning Costs (including site restoration and spent fuel management) are approximately **\$1.4 billion**



# Projected Pilgrim Nuclear Decommissioning Deficit



## Assumptions:

- 1) Trust Fund is not used for any purpose other than decommissioning.
- 2) Decommissioning is defined broadly to include site restoration and spent fuel management costs.
- 3) The cost of spent fuel management will be reimbursed from the existing DOE fund.

# Projected Pilgrim Nuclear Decommissioning Deficit

