

Attachment 3

Decommissioning Rulemaking Potential Cost Savings

Rulemaking is not necessary in order to ensure adequate protection of safety or to enhance safety. The justification for rulemaking in this area is to reduce the number of licensing actions and regulatory burden associated with decommissioning. Many operating plant regulatory requirements are no longer necessary to protect public health and safety and do not reflect the risk profile for a plant that has permanently ceased operations.

The value to industry of supporting an integrated rulemaking that would address the transition of plants from operating to decommissioned status is the avoided costs of preparing exemption requests and license amendment requests (LARs), and delayed staff reduction based on regulatory delays beyond what plant conditions would require. The two major cost categories related to exemption request/LAR processes that will be mitigated through rulemaking are:

Regulatory costs per plant associated with preparation and support of the regulatory submittal include licensee and NRC costs and are based on cost data from recently shut down plants.

- Total labor costs (licensing, engineering, legal, external contractors) ~\$1,000,000
- NRC review costs ~ \$500,000 to \$2,000,000

Plant costs associated with retained staff due to regulatory delays beyond what plant conditions require are a function of the number of employees retained and the period of delay. The reduction in staff would occur in stages based on used fuel transition points and regulatory action approvals.

- Fully loaded labor cost (including salary and benefits) per 100 employees basis
 - ~\$13,200,000/year
 - ~\$1,100,000/month

These costs do not reflect litigation costs associated with potential legal challenges related to the exemption and license amendment processes or outcomes. Another factor that could increase costs is several plants entering decommissioning at the same time, which could stress the available NRC staff resources performing exemption reviews. To date, three additional plants (Oyster Creek, Pilgrim and Fitzpatrick) have announced intentions to permanently cease operations in the next five years. There are other plants that may decide to shut down prior to the expiration of their current operating license.