

# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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Access to the Decommissioning Trust Fund for the Disposal of Large Components

**Comment On:** NRC-2019-0083-0002

Access to the Decommissioning Trust Fund for the Disposal of Large Components

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Comment on FR Doc # 84 FR 27209

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## Submitter Information

**Name:** Kent Cole

**Address:**

3930 E. Jones Bridge Road

Suite 200

NORCROSS, GA, 30092

**Email:** kcole@nacintl.com

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## General Comment

See attached file(s)

August 26, 2019

NAC International Inc.

Kent S. Cole, CEO and President

Comments in support of the subject petition (PRM-50-119 Access to the Decommissioning Trust Fund for the Disposal of Large Components)

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## Attachments

Letter to NRC\_August 26 2019

August 26, 2019

Secretary  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

ATTENTION: Rulemakings and Adjudication Staff  
SUBJECT: Access to the Decommissioning Trust Fund for the Disposal of  
Large Components, Docket No. PRM-50-119

Greetings,

This letter is submitted to express the support of NAC International Inc. (NAC) for the petition for rulemaking from Gerard P. van Noordennen on behalf of *EnergySolutions*, LLC, dated February 22, 2019 and docketed on March 20, 2019 as Docket No. PRM-50-119. NAC has extensive experience with spent nuclear fuel management in support of many reactor decommissioning projects, including Zion, Kewaunee, Connecticut Yankee, Maine Yankee, Yankee Rowe, and LaCrosse.

The petition requests that the NRC amend 10 CFR Part 50 to revise the definition of decommissioning in § 50.2 and amend § 50.82 to allow access to the decommissioning trust fund before the permanent cessation of operations at nuclear power plants. The cover letter submitted by *EnergySolutions*, LLC for the petition set forth several key reasons why the objective of the petition is worthwhile, timely, and in the best interest of the nuclear industry, the environment and in addressing certain stakeholder concerns.

NAC agrees with the objective of the petition for rulemaking and considers that by allowing access to the decommissioning trust fund for disposal of large contaminated components during plant operations (i.e., prior to decommissioning) substantial benefits are available, such as the following:

- Reduce the site's inventory of contaminated components;
- Avoid worker exposure or environmental impacts from onsite storage of contaminated components;
- Reduce unnecessary regulatory burden;
- Lower the overall cost and complexity of decommissioning;



- Promote optimal utilization of low-level radioactive waste disposal capacity and avoid potential escalation in LLRW burial costs due to spikes in demand resulting from numerous plants waiting until they shut down to dispose; and
- Enhance public confidence that large components can be removed from sites in a timely manner, thereby accelerating eventual decommissioning.

We fully agree with these benefits of the petition for rulemaking and request that the NRC proceed with a rulemaking to incorporate the requested changes into the decommissioning regulatory infrastructure.

The Major Radioactive Components (MRC's) which are the subject of the petition are destined for disposal and the nuclear utilities should have the flexibility to use decommissioning trust funds during operations to facilitate timely disposal of these components in a cost effective manner to maximize the reduction in disposal cost and thus aid in ensuring that ample decommissioning trust funds remain available when full decommissioning takes place. The petition sets forth an adequacy test to ensure that adequate decommissioning trust funds will be available and modifies the definition of decommissioning recognizing that disposal of MRCs can take place during operations in support of final decommissioning. Thus, modifying the existing decommissioning regulatory infrastructure as requested does not in any way serve to compromise the funding process in support of final decommissioning.

We are very pleased that the NRC decided to publish a *Federal Register* Notice soliciting comments on this very important topic and we encourage the agency to proceed with the rulemaking requested by EnergySolutions, LLC. At this point, we have much experience with the decommissioning of nuclear power plants in the United States and much has changed over the past twenty plus years as set forth in the petition. The time has come to capitalize on that experience and realize the current market trends impacting nuclear power plants by modernizing the decommissioning regulatory process.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment on this important and timely topic. NAC will continue to closely monitor the progress around this issue and will look forward to providing more detailed comments or take part in public meetings should the petition result in a rulemaking initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kent S. Cole', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kent S. Cole  
CEO and President  
NAC International Inc.