



United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Protecting People and the Environment

REACTOR DECOMMISSIONING FINANCIAL ASSURANCE WORKING GROUP DRAFT FINAL REPORT

April 14, 2020



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Protecting People and the Environment

Agenda

- Reactor Decommissioning Financial Assurance Working Group (WG) Presentation
- Public Feedback

Working Group

Organizations

- Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
 - Division of Decommissioning, Uranium Recovery and Waste Programs
 - Division of Rulemaking, Environmental and Financial Support
- Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
 - Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
- Region I - Division of Nuclear Materials Safety
- Region III - Division of Nuclear Materials Safety
- Region IV – Division of Nuclear Materials Safety
- Office of the General Counsel

Chairman: Ted Smith, Reactor Decommissioning Branch

WG Charter

The Reactor Decommissioning Financial Assurance Working Group was formed in September 2019 to:

1. Review the current decommissioning financial assurance processes
2. Identify potential regulatory gaps or policy issues
3. Identify potential program enhancements
4. Identify planning or resource considerations
5. Make recommendations

Acronyms

- LLCs – Limited Liability Companies
- WG – Reactor Decommissioning Financial Assurance Working Group
- DTF – Decommissioning Trust Fund
- SSCE – Site-Specific Cost Estimate
- FA – Financial Assurance
- PSDAR – Post-Shutdown Decommissioning Activities Report

Decommissioning Business Models

- Historically, decommissioning has been managed by the former operator
- Recently, plants have been transferred for decommissioning
- License transfers require a financial qualification evaluation

Key Features of Decommissioning License Transfers

- ⦿ Accelerated Decommissioning
 - Accelerated Decommissioning Trust Fund (DTF) expenditures
 - Reduces time for DTF growth
- ⦿ Dedicated limited liability companies (LLCs)
 - Financial assurance requirements continue
 - Different financial assurance methods

WG Final Report Summary

- No regulatory gaps or policy issues have been identified
- Recommendations developed to improve FA licensing and oversight processes
 - Seven guidance improvements
 - Two from February 5, 2020 webinar
 - A training program for inspectors, licensing staff and financial analysts

Recommended Improvements

- ◎ Guidance initiatives
 1. Clarify oversight of DTF expenditures
 2. Periodic cost-baselining
 3. Develop 30-day notification guidance
 4. Revise Inspection Procedures
 5. Develop decommissioning reactor financial assurance spot check program
 6. Develop guidance for PSDAR update triggers
 7. Develop guidance on comparison between DTF formula and SSCE
- ◎ Establish decommissioning financial assurance training program

Next Steps

- Obtain your feedback on potential gaps or factual errors today
- Final Report May 2020

Thanks

Feedback instructions

- Please be mindful of the scope of this webinar– Financial Assurance for Decommissioning
- Please provide programmatic feedback identifying potential gaps or factual errors as opposed to comments about specific plants
- Please be brief, so as to allow others to leave feedback
- You may also use the webinar Q&A dialogue box to leave feedback