



Public Service

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Public Service
Company of Colorado

August 22, 1996
Fort St. Vrain
P-96073

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555

ATTN: Mr. Michael F. Weber, Chief
Decommissioning and
Regulatory Issues Branch

Docket No. 50-267

**SUBJECT: Impact of Final Decommissioning Rule on Fort St. Vrain
Decommissioning**

REFERENCES: See Reference List on Page 6

Dear Mr. Weber:

This letter outlines Public Service Company of Colorado's review of the NRC's new Decommissioning Rule (*Revisions to 10 CFR Parts 2, 50, and 51*, 61 CFR 39278, dated July 29, 1996, Reference 1), and requests NRC concurrence that the requirements to submit and obtain approval of a license termination plan have been satisfied for the Fort St. Vrain (FSV) decommissioning project.

Decommissioning activities at the Fort St. Vrain Station have been in progress since August 1992 and are nearing completion. PSCo is planning to submit the third and final part of the final survey report by the end of September 1996, and at that time we intend to request that the NRC terminate our 10 CFR Part 50 license.

In accordance with the new Decommissioning Rule, 10 CFR 50.82(a)(9) requires that an application for termination of license must be accompanied or preceded by a license termination plan to be submitted for NRC approval. PSCo considers that the decommissioning documentation previously submitted to the NRC, to obtain authorization to begin decommissioning activities, satisfies the requirements of a license termination plan. Further, we consider that the NRC has already approved these plans and provided sufficient opportunity for public comment.

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Each of the requirements of 10 CFR 50.82(a)(9), and the manner in which they have been satisfied, are addressed below:

(i) The license termination plan must be a supplement to the FSAR or equivalent and must be submitted at least 2 years before termination of the license date.

As described below, PSCo considers that all of the required elements of a license termination plan were submitted to the NRC far in advance of the 2 year requirement. The FSV Proposed Decommissioning Plan (PDP) included most of the license termination plan information and, upon its approval, superseded the FSAR in its entirety. The PDP was initially submitted in November 1990 (Reference 2). PSCo also submitted a set of proposed Decommissioning Technical Specifications in December 1990 (Reference 3). The decommissioning supplement to FSV's Environmental Report was submitted in July 1991 (Reference 4). After numerous clarifications and revisions, these documents were approved by the NRC in November 1992 (Reference 5). With our current plans to submit a request in 1996 for termination of the FSV operating license, these submittals satisfied the 2 year requirement.

(ii) The license termination plan must include -

(A) A site characterization;

PSCo performed an Initial Radiological Site Characterization which included over 20,000 measurements at over 5000 survey locations. The results of this characterization effort are provided in the FSV Decommissioning Plan, Section 3.1, "Facility Radiological Status," and were also provided to the NRC in a February 1992 letter (Reference 6).

The final radiological status of the facility is being documented in a final survey report. This report documents that the facility has been thoroughly surveyed and that all surfaces meet the acceptance criteria.

(B) Identification of remaining dismantlement activities;

Dismantlement activities are fully described in the FSV Decommissioning Plan, Section 2.3, "Decommissioning Activities and Planning." This description has been updated on an annual basis as appropriate. Upon submittal of the last part of the final survey report, there will be no remaining dismantlement activities.

(C) Plans for site remediation;

PSCo's plans for site cleanup are described in Section 2.3 of the FSV Decommissioning Plan, and essentially involve the radiological decontamination necessary to meet the site acceptance criteria to allow release for unrestricted use. Upon submittal of the last part of the final survey report, there will be no remaining site remediation activities.

(D) Detailed plans for the final radiation survey;

PSCo's plans for the final radiation survey were originally provided in the FSV Decommissioning Plan, Section 4, "Final Radiation Survey Plan." After further discussion with the NRC, a more detailed final radiation survey plan was developed and submitted for approval in February 1994 (Reference 7). The NRC approved the detailed final radiation survey plan in January 1995 (Reference 8). The final radiation survey effort will be complete after the NRC reviews and confirms the results of the final survey.

(E) A description of the end use of the site, if restricted;

PSCo is decontaminating and disposing of radioactive materials so that the FSV facility can be surveyed and released without restrictions on future use. The site is being repowered as a natural gas-fueled generating facility, with a useful lifetime of at least 15 years. One combustion turbine generator has already been installed and placed in commercial operation and a heat recovery steam generator will be installed, with construction scheduled to begin in September 1996. Our intent to repower the site with non-nuclear fueled equipment was identified in the Proposed Decommissioning Plan (Reference 2).

(F) An updated site-specific estimate of remaining decommissioning costs; and

A detailed site specific estimate of costs associated with decommissioning the FSV site was submitted to the NRC in June 1991 (Reference 9). This cost estimate was referenced in the NRC's safety evaluation provided with the Decommissioning Order (Reference 5) and is addressed in the FSV Decommissioning Plan, Section 5, "Decommissioning Fixed Price Contract and Funding Plan." The June 1991 cost estimate has been revised several times to reflect project changes, and was most recently revised in the 1994 update of the Decommissioning Plan. A financial

assurance mechanism is being maintained to ensure adequate financing for completion of the decommissioning project, as required by 10 CFR 50.75.

(G) A supplement to the environmental report, pursuant to §51.53, describing any new information or significant environmental change associated with the licensee's proposed termination activities.

A Supplement to Applicant's Environmental Report - Post Operating License Stage - Decommissioning, was submitted for NRC approval in July 1991 (Reference 4). This supplemental report evaluated the environmental impacts of decommissioning activities, including the transporting and disposal of low level radioactive waste, and the release of radionuclides to the environs. The NRC prepared an Environmental Assessment and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact in November 1992 (Reference 5).

*(iii) The NRC shall notice receipt of the license termination plan and make the license termination plan available for public comment. The NRC shall also schedule a public meeting in the vicinity of the licensee's facility upon receipt of the license termination plan. The NRC shall publish a notice in the **Federal Register** and in a forum, such as local newspapers, which is readily accessible to individuals in the vicinity of the site, announcing the date, time and location of the meeting, along with a brief description of the purpose of the meeting.*

After PSCo submitted the Proposed Decommissioning Plan, the NRC published a Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Orders Authorizing Decommissioning and Termination of Possession Only License in the **Federal Register** on March 13, 1992 (57 FR 8940). As described in the FSV Decommissioning Order (Reference 5), no comments or requests for hearing were received.

Also, the NRC published a Notice of Issuance of Environmental Assessment in the **Federal Register** on November 23, 1992 (57 FR 55004).

With regards to public meetings, the NRC and PSCo have discussed on several occasions plans to conduct public meetings in the Platteville, Colorado area, which is the closest community to the FSV site. The NRC has initiated contact with the Platteville Town Administrator regarding these public meetings and current plans are to conduct one public meeting in late 1996, and a second public meeting most likely in the Spring of 1997. It is noted that PSCo has provided decommissioning planning and status information to the public throughout the decommissioning project, through meetings with county commissioners and the local town council, and through neighborhood newsletters.

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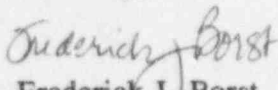
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PSCo considers that the public was provided notice of PSCo's decommissioning plans and that appropriate planning efforts are in progress to conduct public meetings in the vicinity of the site, prior to license termination.

Based on the above, PSCo requests NRC concurrence with our understanding that all elements of a license termination plan (as required by the NRC's new Decommissioning Rule) have been submitted and approved by the NRC, and that all requirements for public notice and for public meetings either have been satisfied or are currently in the NRC's planning process.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact Mr. M. H. Holmes at (303) 620-1701.

Sincerely,



Frederick J. Borst
Decommissioning Program Director

FJB/SWC

cc: Regional Administrator, Region IV

Mr. Robert M. Quillin, Director
Radiation Control Division
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

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REFERENCES FOR P-96073

1. Decommissioning of Nuclear Power Reactors, 10 CFR Parts 2, 50, and 51, Final Rule, dated July 29, 1996, 61 FR 39278-39304
2. PSCo Letter, Crawford to Weiss, dated November 5, 1990 (P-90318), Fort St. Vrain Proposed Decommissioning Plan
3. PSCo Letter, Crawford to Weiss, dated December 21, 1990 (P-90367), Decommissioning Technical Specifications
4. PSCo Letter, Crawford to Weiss, dated July 10, 1991 (P-91219), Supplement to Applicant's Environmental Report - Post Operating License Stage
5. NRC Letter, Erickson to Crawford, dated November 23, 1992 (G-92244), Order to Authorize Decommissioning of Fort St. Vrain and Amendment No. 85 to Possession Only License No. DPR-34
6. PSCo Letter, Warembourg to Weiss, dated February 5, 1992 (P-92036), Initial Site Characterization Program Results
7. PSCo Letter, Warembourg to Austin, dated February 17, 1994 (P-94019), Final Survey Plan for Site Release
8. NRC Letter, Pittiglio to Crawford, dated January 26, 1995 (G-95020), Response to NRC Comments on the Final Survey Plan for Site Release for Fort St. Vrain Nuclear Generating Station
9. PSCo Letter, Crawford to Weiss, dated June 6, 1991 (P-91198), Fort St. Vrain Decommissioning Cost Estimate