



Public Service®

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**Public Service
Company of Colorado**
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January 4, 1993
Fort St. Vrain
Unit No. 1
P-93001

A. Clegg Crawford
Vice President
Electric Production

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

ATTN: Mr. James M. Taylor
Executive Director for Operations

Docket No. 50-267

SUBJECT: Fort St. Vrain Decommissioning Order

Dear Mr. Taylor:

I would like to take this opportunity to express the appreciation of Public Service Company of Colorado (PSC) for the efforts of the NRC staff in issuing the order authorizing decommissioning of the Fort St. Vrain Nuclear Station. Issuing this order has been in progress for over two years, and has required exceptional efforts by many of your staff. Specifically, Dr. Seymour Weiss and Messrs. Richard Dudley, Peter Erickson, Larry Pittiglio, and J. B. Baird should be acknowledged for their timely and professional efforts and contributions to the project.

The Fort St. Vrain Decommissioning Order is one of the first to be issued under the NRC's Decommissioning Rule. This presented many first-time challenges, from defining and issuing the Possession Only License to defining change and modification authority similar to 10 CFR 50.59 in the Decommissioning Order. In addition, the dismantlement of a Prestressed Concrete Reactor Vessel (PCRV) involves techniques and radiation protection considerations that are markedly different from those evaluated previously by the NRC for reference pressurized and boiling water reactors.

Your staff responded to these challenges and provided required approvals in a timely manner. The large majority of our planned decommissioning activities have proceeded on schedule, without unnecessary and costly approval delays, and I appreciate the efforts of the NRC staff in this area.

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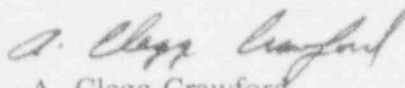
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The successful completion of the planning phase of the Fort St. Vrain decommissioning project would not have been possible without many individual efforts. Both Dr. Weiss and Mr. Dudley provided excellent management attention and direction, and were essential to the successful completion of the NRC's review and approval process. Mr. Erickson's previous experience with decommissioning plans, environmental reports, and decommissioning alternatives proved invaluable. Mr. Pittiglio's attention to the details of the decommissioning methodology, safety, and costs was important to approval of the decommissioning plan, and Mr. Baird's experience in Health Physics concerns was essential to the satisfactory resolution of issues in this area.

In summary, the issuance of the Fort St. Vrain Decommissioning Order was an involved and complicated task, and I personally want to convey my appreciation for the efforts of the NRC staff. We can now focus our efforts on the safe accomplishment of the reactor dismantlement and other decommissioning tasks that lie ahead.

Very truly yours,



A. Clegg Crawford
Vice President
Electric Production

ACC/SWC

cc: Regional Administrator, Region IV

Mr. Ramon Hall, Director
Uranium Recovery Field Office

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