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April 12, 1985

Patricia Norry  
Director  
Office of Administration  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington D.C. 20555

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION  
ACT REQUEST

FOIA 85-270

rec'd 4/15/85

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request Concerning  
Proposed Decommissioning Regulations.

Dear Ms. Norry:

The NRC has issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking regarding Decommissioning Criteria for Nuclear Facilities, 50 Fed. Reg. 5600 (Feb. 11, 1985). The following requests are made pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. §552 and §9.8 of the Commission's Rules, 10 C.F.R. §9.8, and concern that proposed rulemaking.

1. In the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, the Commission proposes a \$100 million decommissioning cost estimate, apparently applicable to any utility nuclear generating facility. 50 Fed. Reg. at 5602. The NRC states that this \$100 million covers decommissioning costs for most utility licensees (50 Fed. Reg. at 5606); and also states that the \$100 million was chosen based on data in NUREG/CR-0130 and -0672, further taking into account escalation of these costs to 1984 dollars, additional costs of engineering and planning, use of contractors, variations in local labor rates, in waste transportation costs, and in local power costs. Id. Copies of the NUREG publications cited in the section described above -- the so-called Battelle or PNL studies -- are already in our possession, and need not be supplied in response to this request. Otherwise, please provide:

- a. all materials relied on by the NRC in concluding that the \$100 million estimate would cover decommissioning costs for most utility licensees; and

- b. all materials relied on by the NRC to escalate the costs derived from the NUREG publications, including, but not limited to, documents which show what escalation factors the NRC relied on, and how those escalation rates were chosen.

2. The NRC has proposed to escalate decommissioning costs in the future at the rate of two times the CPI. 50 Fed. Reg. at 5606. The NRC states that this approximation was derived by analyzing the rate of escalation of the major cost elements in the Battelle studies over the last several years. Id. Please provide:

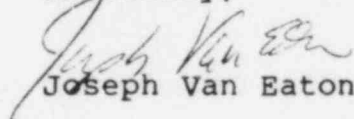
- a. the analysis on which the NRC relied in reaching its conclusion regarding the escalation of the major cost elements in the Battelle studies; and
- b. the materials (if any) on which the NRC relied which would indicate the relationship identified by the NRC between the CPI and escalation in decommissioning costs is likely to continue into the future.

3. A list of references is included in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. 50 Fed. Reg. 5611. Aside from those listed references, please provide all materials which relate to work performed or advice given by outside consultants, including the Atomic Industrial Forum or Thomas LaGuardia, on which the NRC relied in developing its proposed decommissioning rules.

We will be happy to pay reasonable costs incurred in responding to this request; however, please let me know if it appears those costs will exceed \$500.

As you know, comments regarding the proposed rules must be filed by May 13. Therefore, we would appreciate it if you could respond to this request as quickly as possible. Please give me a call if you have any questions concerning the requests.

Sincerely,

  
Joseph Van Eaton