



Public Service
Company of Colorado

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April 7, 1997
Fort St. Vrain
P-97023

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

Docket No. 50-267

**SUBJECT: QUARTERLY SUBMITTAL OF THE 10 CFR 50.59 REPORT OF
CHANGES, TESTS AND EXPERIMENTS FOR FORT ST. VRAIN
DECOMMISSIONING**

REFERENCE: NRC Letter dated November 23, 1992, Erickson to Crawford (G-92244)

Gentlemen:

This letter transmits the last and final quarterly 10 CFR 50.59 Report of Changes, Tests, and Experiments affecting Decommissioning of the Fort St. Vrain (FSV) Nuclear Station. This report covers the period from March 1, 1997 through termination of the Fort St. Vrain Facility Operating License (Possession Only). In the event that any additional changes, tests or experiments occur between the present date and the actual license termination, Public Service Company of Colorado will provide a supplement to this letter.

This report is being submitted pursuant to Condition (b)(2) of the "Order Approving Decommissioning Plan and Authorizing Deconmissioning of Facility", transmitted in the referenced letter, which states the following:

"The licensee shall submit, as specified in 10 CFR 50.4, a report containing a brief description of any changes, tests and experiments, including a summary of the safety evaluation of each. The report must be submitted quarterly."

If you have any questions concerning this report, please contact Mr. M. H. Holmes at (303) 571-7633.

Sincerely,

Frederick J. Borst
Frederick J. Borst

Decommissioning Program Director

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Attachment

cc: Mr. John W. Hickey, Chief
Decommissioning and Regulatory
Issues Branch

Regional Administrator, Region IV

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

FINAL QUARTERLY 10 CFR 50.59 REPORT
OF CHANGES, TESTS AND EXPERIMENTS
FOR FSV DECOMMISSIONING

Background:

The following is a brief discussion of 10 CFR 50.59 changes to the Fort St. Vrain (FSV) facility or procedures as described in the Decommissioning Plan (DP) and tests and experiments not described in the DP, in the time period from March 1, 1997 through termination of the Fort St. Vrain Facility Operating License (Possession Only).

This report is similar to past reports of changes, tests and experiments submitted in accordance with 10 CFR 50.59, and is submitted pursuant to Paragraph (b)(2) of the FSV Decommissioning Order (issued in NRC letter dated November 23, 1992, Erickson to Crawford), which states:

"The licensee shall submit, as specified in 10 CFR 50.4, a report containing a brief description of any changes, tests and experiments, including a summary of the safety evaluation of each. The report must be submitted quarterly."

As the final report of Fort St. Vrain Decommissioning Project activities, this report also summarizes the final submittal of other required NRC reports, although Public Service Company of Colorado (PSCo) acknowledges that these reports are typically not treated as changes, tests and experiments, and they were not covered by safety evaluations.

Project Status:

All physical decommissioning activities at Fort St. Vrain have been complete since March 1996 and the Final Survey Report was submitted in October 1996. PSCo expects to resolve all remaining NRC issues regarding the final survey by the end of April, 1997.

On April 3, 1997, PSCo submitted a request to terminate the Fort St. Vrain Facility Operating License (Possession Only), in accordance with the process provided in the July 1996 Decommissioning Rule (61 FR 39278). As part of this process, PSCo also requested NRC approval of a license amendment to document approval of the Fort St. Vrain license termination plan, the elements of which are primarily contained in the approved Decommissioning Plan, with remaining elements in the approved "Supplement to Applicant's Environmental Report - Post-Operating License Stage - Decommissioning," and in the approved Final Survey Plan.

On March 11, 1997, PSCo submitted the final Annual Radioactive Effluent Release Report (Reference 1). This report stated that all effluent releases were complete as of July 3, 1996, and that all solid low level radioactive waste had been shipped for disposal by March 11, 1997.

On March 18, 1997, PSCo submitted the final Annual Radiation Exposure Reports, for 1997 (Reference 2). This letter stated that no personnel received radiation exposure at Fort St. Vrain in 1997 or at any time subsequent to the previous summary reports submitted on November 5, 1996.

On March 18, 1997, PSCo submitted the 1997 Annual and Final Radiological Environmental Operating Report (Reference 3). This letter noted that after July 3, 1996, there were no radiological effluent releases that potentially could have affected the environment. PSCo concluded that the Applicability statement in the ODCM, that it applied to *"all routine, planned liquid and gaseous effluent releases made pursuant to the FSV Decommissioning Technical Specifications and unplanned liquid and gaseous effluent releases,"* had been satisfied and that all surveillances and other actions taken in accordance with the ODCM may be suspended. PSCo also concluded that there was no need to continue the Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program (REMP), which is included in the ODCM and which essentially confirms the effectiveness of effluent controls by monitoring for radionuclides in the environment, since effluent releases had been completed. The REMP included requirements to perform a Land Use Census, to determine if any changes need to be reflected in the following year's monitoring program. Since PSCo concluded that the REMP surveillances could be suspended, there was no need to perform a census to determine any appropriate changes. As part of the suspension of REMP surveillances and other actions, the Land Use Census was also discontinued. PSCo's conclusions were documented and the suspension of surveillance activities was approved by the Decommissioning Safety Review Committee on July 10, 1996.

Changes to the FSV Facility or its Procedures as Described in the Decommissioning Plan

There were no changes to the FSV facility or its procedures as described in the DP during this period.

Tests or Experiments not Described in the Decommissioning Plan

No tests or experiments were conducted this reporting period that are not described in the DP.

References for Final 10 CFR 50.59 Report

1. PSCo letter, Borst to NRC Document Control Desk, dated March 11, 1997 (P-97013), "Annual Radioactive Effluent Release Report."
2. PSCo letter, Borst to Director, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, dated March 18, 1997 (P-97014), "Final Fort St. Vrain Annual Radiation Exposure Reports, 1997."
3. PSCo letter, Borst to NRC Document Control Desk, dated March 18, 1997 (P-97015), "1997 Annual and Final Radiological Environmental Operating Report."