

June 18, 1997

Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555

Docket No. 50-155 - License DPR-6 - Big Rock Point Plant - NOTIFICATION OF BIG ROCK POINT NUCLEAR PLANT SHUTDOWN FOR DECOMMISSIONING ON AUGUST 30, 1997.

Consumers Energy Company's Big Rock Point Nuclear Plant - the nation's longest running and oldest operating nuclear plant - will permanently cease operation on August 30, 1997. The early shutdown - the plant's operating license expires May 31, 2000 - brings to an end 35 years of electric generation at the plant. Big Rock Point's relatively small generating capacity of 67 megawatts is likely to make it too expensive in an increasingly competitive environment.

On September 5, 1996, Consumers Energy Company (Consumers Power Company), submitted a request that the Big Rock Point Decommissioning Plan and associated Environmental Report be considered the Post Shutdown Decommissioning Activities Report (PSDAR). In compliance with the request the Nuclear Regulatory Commission conducted a public meeting in the local vicinity of the plant site to allow the opportunity for public input. Having met the requirements of the Final Rule on Decommissioning issued on August 28, 1996, Consumers Energy Company will begin decommissioning the Big Rock Plant upon certification that the Big Rock Plant will cease operation and that fuel has been removed from the reactor vessel. The certification is expected to occur on or about September 15, 1997.

The Big Rock Point Plant PSDAR (D-Plan) currently describes a 27 year safe storage period followed by plant dismantlement. Safe storage was appropriate at the time of D-Plan submittal in February 1995, since there was no low level radioactive waste burial site available to accept Big Rock Point's low level waste. However, Consumers Energy Company also included the option in the D-Plan for immediate dismantlement should a low level radioactive waste burial site become available to Big Rock Point. The Chem Nuclear, Barnwell, South Carolina low level radioactive waste site has since become available for the industry to ship its low level waste. Therefore Consumers Energy Company will begin immediate dismantlement of the plant following shutdown and certification that fuel has been removed from the reactor vessel.

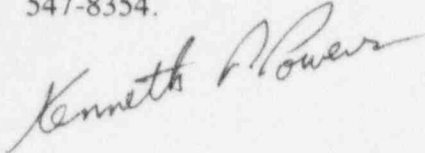
Immediate dismantlement over the first 6 to 9 months will initially consist of minor decommissioning activities such as insulation (asbestos) removal, chemical decontamination of



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selected systems, removal of small bore piping and some system components and low level radioactive waste shipments for burial. In addition, Westinghouse has been selected to supply the dry fuel storage and transportable canister system for the spent fuel. It is anticipated that all spent fuel will be removed from wet storage within about three years from plant shutdown as supported by the appropriate analysis. Reference the draft milestone schedule attached. The cost estimate for immediate dismantlement will be updated and submitted to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Michigan Public Service Commission in March 1998.

Please direct any questions you may have with regard to this notification to James S. Rang, 616 547-8354.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kenneth P. Powers".

Kenneth P Powers
General Plant Manager

cc: See attached list

Attachment

**Big Rock Point Plant
Plant Shutdown for Decommissioning**

cc:

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Attachment 1

**CONSUMERS POWER COMPANY
BIG ROCK POINT
Docket No 50-155**

Summary Decommissioning Schedule

Submitted June 18, 1997

