

Public Meeting on Proposed Rule

Regulatory Improvements for Production and
Utilization Facilities Transitioning to Decommissioning

March 31, 2022

Purpose

- Provide information to help stakeholders prepare comments on the “Regulatory Improvements for Production and Utilization Facilities Transitioning to Decommissioning” proposed rule and draft regulatory guidance

Agenda

- Welcome and Logistics
- Opening Remarks
- Background and Status
- Overview of the Proposed Rule
- Tips for Preparing Comments
- Next Steps
- Public Feedback and Questions

Logistics

- Meeting is being recorded and transcribed
- Keep line muted until you intend to speak
- Raise hand button in Teams (*5 on phone)
- Unmute button in Teams (*6 on phone)
- Chat feature is disabled
- Presentation slides shown on the Microsoft Teams screen and in ADAMS at [ML22089A003](#)
- Phone attendees should email Dan.Doyle@nrc.gov for attendance

Opening Remarks

Patricia K. Holahan, Ph.D.

Special Assistant

Division of Rulemaking, Environmental, and Financial Support

Daniel Doyle
Senior Project Manager
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Background and Status

Background and Status

- An increase in plant shutdowns led the NRC to initiate rulemaking in December 2015 to improve the transition to decommissioning.
- The NRC conducted extensive public outreach including soliciting comments on an advance notice of proposed rulemaking and a regulatory basis document.
- The proposed rule was published in the *Federal Register* on March 3, 2022 ([87 FR 12254](#)). The 75-day comment period ends May 17, 2022.

Proposed Rule and Related Documents

- **Proposed Rule**

- Citation: 87 FR 12254 (March 3, 2022)
- [Web version](#)
- [Printed version](#)

- **Supporting & Related Material**

- Draft Regulatory Analysis ([ML22019A132](#))
- Draft Environmental Assessment ([ML22019A140](#))
- Draft Supporting Statements for Information Collections ([ML18039A192](#))
- Unofficial Redline Rule Text ([ML22032A001](#))

Guidance Documents

- DG-1346 Rev. 1 (Proposed New RG 1.235) Emergency Planning for Decommissioning Nuclear Power Reactors ([ML21347A046](#))
- DG-1347 Rev. 1 (Proposed RG 1.184 Rev. 2) Decommissioning of Nuclear Power Reactors ([ML21347A080](#))
- DG-1348 Rev. 1 (Proposed RG 1.159 Rev. 3) Assuring the Availability of Funds for Decommissioning Production or Utilization Facilities ([ML21347A081](#))
- DG-1349 Rev. 1 (Proposed RG 1.185 Rev. 2) Standard Format and Content for Post-Shutdown Decommissioning Activities Report ([ML21347A138](#))

Overview of the Proposed Rule

Graded Approach

	Docketing of 10 CFR 50.82/ 10 CFR 52.110 Certifications LEVEL 1	Permanent Cessation of Operations + 10 Months (BWR) or 16 Months (PWR) LEVEL 2	All Fuel in Dry Cask Storage LEVEL 3	All Fuel Offsite LEVEL 4
Emergency Preparedness	Post-Shutdown Emergency Plan (PSEP)	Permanently Defueled Emergency Plan (PDEP)	ISFSI Only Emergency Plan (IOEP)	Permanent or interim waste storage available
Physical Security	Allows for certain physical security plan changes without prior NRC approval		Can transition from 10 CFR 73.55 to 10 CFR 73.51 requirements	
Cyber Security		Removal of cyber security requirements		
Onsite/Offsite Insurance		Reduction of onsite insurance to \$50 million Reduction of offsite insurance to \$100 million		

Emergency Preparedness

Where is this discussed in the FRN?

- Section IV.A (pages 12268–12283)

Which sections of the CFR would be amended?

- 10 CFR 50.47, 10 CFR 50.54, 10 CFR 50.200, App E to 10 CFR Part 50, 10 CFR 72.32, 10 CFR 72.44

- **Summary:**

- This proposed rule offers an alternative, graded approach to the licensee requirements for onsite and offsite radiological emergency preparedness at an operating nuclear power reactor. This approach would provide four levels of emergency planning standards that coincide with significant milestones in the reduction of the radiological risk during decommissioning.

- **Specific requests for comments:**

- Emergency Planning
- Emergency Response Data Systems

- **Additional information:**

- Draft Guidance: DG-1346 Revision 1 (Proposed New Regulatory Guide RG 1.235) Emergency Planning for Decommissioning Nuclear Power Reactors

Physical Security

- **Summary:**

- This proposed rule would allow certain changes to eliminate licensee requests for approvals via exemptions, amendments, and for certain adjustments to their physical security programs (the removal of the prevention of significant core damage, the use of certified fuel handlers, the removal of the control room as a vital area, the removal of security communications with the control room, revisions to the 10 CFR 50.54(p)(2) process, and the use of 10 CFR 73.51 for the Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation physical security requirements).

- **Specific requests for comments:**

- None

- **Additional information:**

- None

Where is this discussed in the FRN?

- Section IV.B (pages 12283–12285)

Which sections of the CFR would be amended?

- 10 CFR 50.54, 10 CFR 72.13, 10 CFR 72.212, 10 CFR 73.51, 10 CFR 73.55

Cyber Security

Where is this discussed in the FRN?

- Section IV.C (pages 12285–12286)

Which sections of the CFR would be amended?

- 10 CFR 73.54, 10 CFR 73.55

- **Summary:**

- This proposed rule would provide that the cyber security requirements in § 73.54, “Protection of digital computer and communication systems and networks,” would apply to a nuclear power reactor after the licensee’s permanent cessation of operations, until all the fuel has been removed from the reactor vessel and there has been sufficient decay of the fuel in the spent fuel pool such that it would not reach ignition temperature within 10 hours under adiabatic heatup conditions.

- **Specific requests for comments:**

- Cyber Security

- **Additional information:**

- Backfit analysis is in Section IX.D of the FRN (pages 12313–12316).

Drug and Alcohol Testing

Where is this discussed in the FRN?

- Section IV.D (pages 12286–12287)

Which sections of the CFR would be amended?

- 10 CFR 26.3, 10 CFR 26.825, 10 CFR 73.55

- **Summary:**

- This proposed rule would correct inconsistencies in the NRC’s regulations for fitness-for-duty programs and clarify provisions regarding a nuclear power reactor licensee’s insider mitigation program.

- **Specific requests for comments:**

- None

- **Additional information:**

- None

Certified Fuel Handler Definition and Elimination of the Shift Technical Advisor

Where is this discussed in the FRN?

- Section IV.E (pages 12287–12288)

Which sections of the CFR would be amended?

- 10 CFR 50.2, 10 CFR 50.54

- **Summary:**

- This proposed rule would retain the existing definition for “certified fuel handler” and add an alternative that would eliminate the need for nuclear power reactor licensees to seek the Commission’s approval of a fuel handler training program. This proposed rule would also clarify that a Shift Technical Advisor is not required for decommissioning nuclear power reactors.

- **Specific requests for comments:**

- None

- **Additional information:**

- None

Decommissioning Funding Assurance

Where is this discussed in the FRN?

- Section IV.F (pages 12288–12289)

Which sections of the CFR would be amended?

- 10 CFR 50.75, 10 CFR 50.82, 10 CFR 52.110, 10 CFR 72.30

• **Summary:**

- Modifies the biennial decommissioning trust fund reporting frequency for operating reactors (10 CFR 50.75) to be consistent with the 3-year reporting frequency for ISFSIs (§ 72.30(c)).
- ISFSI funding reports –
 - allows licensees to combine reports required by § 50.82(a)(8)(v), § 50.82(a)(8)(vii), and § 72.30
 - removes the requirement for NRC approval of ISFSI reports filed under § 72.30(c).
- Clarifies that when a licensee identifies a shortfall in report required by § 50.75(f)(1), the licensee must obtain additional financial assurance to cover the shortfall and discuss that information in the next report.
- Makes administrative changes to ensure consistency with § 50.4, “Written communications,” regarding the submission of notifications and to eliminate § 50.75(f)(2) because § 50.75(f)(1) fully encompasses paragraph (f)(2).

Decommissioning Funding Assurance (continued)

- **Specific requests for comments:**

- Financial Assurance
- Site-Specific Cost Analysis
- Decommissioning Trust Fund
- Timing of Decommissioning Fund Assurance Reporting
- Identical Requirements under § 50.82 and § 52.110

- **Additional information:**

- Draft Guidance: DG-1348 Revision 1 (Proposed Regulatory Guide RG 1.159 Rev. 3) Assuring the Availability of Funds for Decommissioning Production or Utilization Facilities

Offsite and Onsite Financial Protection Requirements and Indemnity Agreements

Where is this discussed in the FRN?

- Section IV.G (pages 12289–12291)

Which sections of the CFR would be amended?

- 10 CFR 50.54, 10 CFR 140.11, 10 CFR 140.81

- **Summary:**

- This proposed rule would allow certain nuclear power reactor licensees in decommissioning to reduce the onsite and offsite insurance amounts they are required to maintain without obtaining exemptions from the NRC's regulations.

- **Specific requests for comments:**

- Insurance
- Insurance for Specific License ISFSI

- **Additional information:**

- None

Environmental Considerations

Where is this discussed in the FRN?

- Section IV.H (pages 12291–12292)

Which sections of the CFR would be amended?

- 10 CFR 50.82, 10 CFR 51.53, 10 CFR 51.95, 10 CFR 52.110

- **Summary:**

- This proposed rule would clarify that licensees must evaluate in the Post Shutdown Decommissioning Activities Report (PSDAR) the environmental impacts of decommissioning and whether they are bounded by previous federally issued environmental review documents. The proposed rule would also clarify environmental reporting requirements.

- **Specific requests for comments:**

- Approval of PSDAR, site-specific environmental review, and hearing opportunity before allowing major decommissioning activities to begin
- Other activities to increase transparency and public trust in NRC regulatory framework
- Role for state and local governments in the decommissioning process

- **Additional information:**

- Draft Guidance: DG-1347 Rev 1 (Proposed Rev 2 RG 1.184) Decommissioning of Nuclear Power Reactors; DG-1349 Rev 1 (Proposed Rev 2 RG 1.185) Standard Format and Content for PSDAR. Decommissioning GEIS will be updated separately.

Record Retention Requirements

Where is this discussed in the FRN?

- Section IV.I (pages 12292–12294)

Which sections of the CFR would be amended?

- 10 CFR 50.59, 10 CFR 50.71, 10 CFR 52.63, 10 CFR 72.72

- **Summary:**

- This proposed rule would remove certain record retention requirements for structures, systems, and components that no longer remain in service during decommissioning and would remove requirements to keep multiple copies of certain spent fuel storage records.

- **Specific requests for comments:**

- Recordkeeping Requirements for Facilities Licensed under 10 CFR Part 52

- **Additional information:**

- None

Low-Level Waste Transportation

Where is this discussed in the FRN?

- Section IV.J (pages 12294–12295)

Which sections of the CFR would be amended?

- App G to 10 CFR Part 20

- **Summary:**

- This proposed rule would allow a 45-day window for notification of receipt of shipments of low-level radioactive waste. This increase from the current 20-day notification window is based on operating experience that shows that 45 days is an appropriate amount of time to allow for notification of low-level waste shipments.

- **Specific requests for comments:**

- None

- **Additional information:**

- None

Spent Fuel Management Planning

Where is this discussed in the FRN?

- Section IV.K (pages 12295–12296)

Which sections of the CFR would be amended?

- 10 CFR 50.54(bb), 10 CFR 51.53, 10 CFR 51.95, 10 CFR 72.218

- **Summary:**

- This proposed rule would clarify requirements for documenting information on spent fuel management planning in the § 50.54(bb) irradiated fuel management plan and would clarify requirements for decommissioning and termination of a 10 CFR Part 72 general license in § 72.218, “Termination of licenses.”

- **Specific requests for comments:**

- Spent Fuel Management Planning

- **Additional information:**

- Draft Guidance: DG-1347 Rev 1 (Proposed RG 1.184 Rev 2), DG-1349 Rev 1 (Proposed RG 1.185 Rev 2)

Backfit Rule

Where is this discussed in the FRN?

- Section IV.L (pages 12296–12297)

Which sections of the CFR would be amended?

- 10 CFR 50.109, 10 CFR 72.62

- **Summary:**

- This proposed rule would clarify how the NRC applies § 50.109, “Backfitting,” to nuclear power reactor licensees in decommissioning and would make conforming changes to § 72.62.

- **Specific requests for comments:**

- Backfit Rule

- **Additional information:**

- The proposed rule would codify consideration of costs when justifying a backfitting action with the compliance exception.

Foreign Ownership, Control, or Domination

- **Summary:**

- This proposed rule would specify the criteria for when a facility is no longer a production or utilization facility and that the foreign ownership, control, or domination prohibition found in § 50.38, “Ineligibility of certain applicants,” no longer applies to a person seeking a license for such a facility.

- **Specific requests for comments:**

- None

- **Additional information:**

- None

Where is this discussed in the FRN?

- Section IV.M (pages 12297–12300)

Which sections of the CFR would be amended?

- 10 CFR 50.1, 10 CFR 50.2, 10 CFR 50.38, 10 CFR 50.51, 10 CFR 50.82, 10 CFR 52.0, 10 CFR 52.109, 10 CFR 52.110

Clarification of Scope of License Termination Plan Requirement

Where is this discussed in the FRN?

- Section IV.N (pages 12300–12301)

Which sections of the CFR would be amended?

- 10 CFR 50.82, 10 CFR 52.110

- **Summary:**

- This proposed rule would clarify that the requirement for a license termination plan in §§ 50.82(a)(9) and 52.110(i) applies only to nuclear power reactor licensees that have loaded fuel into the reactor.

- **Specific requests for comments:**

- None

- **Additional information:**

- None

Removal of License Conditions and Withdrawal of Orders

Where is this discussed in the FRN?

- Section IV.O (pages 12301–12301)

Which sections of the CFR would be amended?

- 10 CFR 50.155

- **Summary:**

- This proposed rule would deem removed conditions imposed upon individual licensees and withdraw an NRC order. The conditions and order have been identified as having been made redundant by subsequent regulation resulting in their requirements being generically applicable.

- **Specific requests for comments:**

- Removal of License Conditions and Withdrawal of Orders

- **Additional information:**

- None

Changes for Consistent Treatment of Holders of Combined Licenses and Operating Licenses

Where is this discussed in the FRN?

- Section IV.P (pages 12301–12302)

Which sections of the CFR would be amended?

- 10 CFR 50.36, 50.44, 50.46, 50.48, 50.49, 50.54, 50.59, 50.60, 50.61, 50.62, 50.65, 50.71, 50.75, App I to 10 CFR Part 50, 52.110

• **Summary:**

- The proposed rule would improve consistency in regulatory treatment for combined license (Part 52) and operating license (Part 50) holders by aligning regulatory applicabilities for combined license holders upon submittal of the § 52.110(a) certifications with regulatory applicabilities for operating license holders upon submittal of the § 50.82(a)(1) certifications.

• **Specific requests for comments:**

- None

• **Additional information:**

- None

Specific Requests for Comments

- 18 requests
- Section V in the FRN (pages 12302–12304)

- PSDAR Approval
- Timeframe for Decommissioning
- Emergency Planning
- Emergency Response Data Systems
- Cyber Security
- Insurance
- Financial Assurance
- Site-Specific Cost Analysis
- Decommissioning Trust Fund
- Timing of Decommissioning Funding Assurance Reporting
- Backfit Rule
- Exemptions
- Applicability
- Insurance for Specific License ISFSI
- Recordkeeping Requirements for Facilities Licensed under 10 CFR Part 52
- Identical Requirements under § 50.82 and § 52.110
- Removal of License Conditions and Withdrawal of Orders
- Spent Fuel Management Planning

Regulatory Analysis

- **Summary:**

- This proposed rule is determined to be cost beneficial, with estimated net averted costs of approximately \$17.9M at a 7 percent net present value (NPV) and \$37.0M at a 3 percent NPV, for the recommended alternatives


- **Specific decommissioning areas:**

- The Emergency Preparedness alternative is estimated to result in net averted costs of approximately \$7.74M at a 7 percent NPV
- The Drugs and Alcohol Testing alternative is estimated to result in net averted costs of approximately \$7.03M at a 7 percent NPV
- The Decommissioning Funding Assurance alternative is estimated to result in net averted costs of approximately \$1.18M at a 7 percent NPV

Tips for Preparing Comments

Tip #1 – Review the Commenter’s Checklist on Regulations.gov

- Available on the [comment submission form](#) on Regulations.gov
- Also available in [printable format](#)



TIPS FOR SUBMITTING EFFECTIVE COMMENTS*

Overview

A comment can express simple support or dissent for a regulatory action. However, a constructive, information-rich comment that clearly communicates and supports its claims is more likely to have an impact on regulatory decision making.

These tips are meant to help the public submit comments that have an impact and help agency policy makers improve federal regulations.

Summary

- ✓ Read and understand the regulatory document you are commenting on
- ✓ Feel free to reach out to the agency with questions
- ✓ Be concise but support your claims
- ✓ Base your justification on sound reasoning, scientific evidence, and/or how you will be impacted
- ✓ Address trade-offs and opposing views in your comment
- ✓ There is no minimum or maximum length for an effective comment
- ✓ The comment process is not a vote – one well supported comment is often more influential than a thousand form letters

Detailed Recommendations

1. Comment periods close at 11:59 eastern time on the date comments are due - begin work well before the deadline.
2. Attempt to fully understand each issue; if you have questions or do not understand a part of the regulatory document, you may ask for help from the agency contact listed in the document.
Note: Although the agency contact can answer your questions about the document's meaning, official comments must be submitted through the comment form.
3. Clearly identify the issues within the regulatory action on which you are commenting. If you are commenting on a particular word, phrase or sentence, provide the page number, column, and paragraph citation from the federal register document.
 - a. If you choose to comment on the comments of others, identify such comments using their comment ID's before you respond to them.

Page 1 of 3

Tip #2 – Review the Unofficial Redline Rule Language

- This document shows how the proposed rule would modify the current regulations in redline/strikeout format.
- ADAMS Accession No. [ML22032A001](#)

(b) Each power reactor applicant for or holder of an operating license, and each applicant for a combined license under subpart C of 10 CFR part 52 for a production or utilization facility of the type and power level specified in paragraph (c) of this section shall submit a decommissioning report, as required by § 50.33(k).

(1) For an applicant for or holder of an operating license under ~~this part 50~~, the report must contain a certification that ~~financial~~ reasonable assurance ~~for decommissioning~~ that funds will be available to decommission will be (for a license applicant), or has been (for a license holder), provided in an amount which may be more, but not less, than the amount stated in the table in ~~paragraph (c)(1) of this section adjusted using a rate at least equal to that stated in paragraph (c)(2) of this section.~~ ~~For an applicant for a combined license under subpart C of 10 CFR part 52, the report must contain a certification that financial assurance for decommissioning will be provided no later than 30 days after the Commission publishes notice in the Federal Register under § 52.103(a) in an amount which may be more, but not less, than the amount stated in the table of minimum amounts in paragraph (c)(1) of this section, adjusted using a rate at least equal to that stated in paragraph (c)(2) of this section.~~ For an applicant for a combined license under subpart C of part 52 of this chapter, the report must contain a certification that reasonable assurance of funds to decommission will be provided no later than 30 days after the Commission publishes notice in the Federal Register under § 52.103(a) of this chapter in an amount which may be more, but not less, than the amount stated in the table of minimum amounts in paragraph (c)(1) of this section, adjusted using a rate at least equal to that stated in paragraph (c)(2) of this section.

(2) The amount to be provided must be adjusted annually using a rate at least equal to that stated in paragraph (c)(2) of this section.

(3) The amount must be covered by one or more of the methods described in paragraph (e) of this section ~~as acceptable to the NRC.~~

(4) The amount stated in the applicant's or licensee's certification may be based on a site-specific decommissioning cost estimate for decommissioning the facility. The site-specific decommissioning cost estimate may be more, but not less, than the amount stated in the table of minimum amounts in paragraph (c)(1) of this section, adjusted using a rate at least equal to that stated in paragraph (c)(2) of this section.

107

Tip #3 – Find additional information on the NRC public website



<https://go.usa.gov/xzksC>

Questions?

Contact Dan Doyle, Dan.Doyle@nrc.gov, 301-415-3748



The screenshot shows the NRC website header with the logo and navigation menu. The main content area features the title "Regulatory Improvements for Production and Utilization Facilities Transitioning to Decommissioning" and a list of links for public comment. The page includes a search bar, a "REPORT A SAFETY CONCERN" button, and social media icons. The main navigation menu includes: NUCLEAR REACTORS, NUCLEAR MATERIALS, RADIOACTIVE WASTE, NUCLEAR SECURITY, PUBLIC MEETINGS & INVOLVEMENT, NRC LIBRARY, and ABOUT NRC. The breadcrumb trail is: Home > Radioactive Waste > Decommissioning > Regulations, Guidance, and Communications > Decommissioning Regulations. The main heading is "Regulatory Improvements for Production and Utilization Facilities Transitioning to Decommissioning". Below the heading is a note: "This page includes links to files in non-HTML format. See [Plugins, Viewers, and Other Tools](#) for more information." Under "On this page:" there is a list of links: "Proposed Rule with Request for Public Comment", "Submit a Formal Comment", "Documents Related to the Proposed Rule", "Public Meetings", and "Additional Background Documents". A paragraph of text follows: "On March 3, 2022, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) published a proposed rule to amend its regulations that relate to the decommissioning of production and utilization facilities. The NRC's goals in amending these regulations are to maintain a safe, effective, and efficient decommissioning process; reduce the need for license amendment requests and exemptions from existing regulations; address other decommissioning issues deemed relevant by the NRC; and support the NRC's Principles of Good Regulation, including openness, clarity, and reliability. The NRC will hold public meetings to promote full understanding of this proposed rule and to facilitate public comments." Below this is the text "Comments are due by May 17, 2022." and a section heading "Proposed Rule with Request for Public Comment" with a link "Read it in the Federal Register [\(xxx\)](#)". At the bottom left of the page content is a "TOP" link.

How to submit a comment

- **Regulations.gov:** [comment form](#)
or
- **Email:** Rulemaking.Comments@nrc.gov
or
- **Mail:** Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, ATTN: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff

12254 Federal Register / Vol. 87, No. 42 / Thursday, March 3, 2022 / Proposed Rules

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
10 CFR Parts 20, 26, 50, 51, 52, 72, 73, 140
[NRC-2015-0070]
RIN 3150-AJ59

Regulatory Improvements for Production and Utilization Facilities Transitioning to Decommissioning
AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is proposing to amend its regulations that relate to the decommissioning of production and utilization facilities. The NRC's goals in amending these regulations are to maintain a safe, effective, and efficient decommissioning process; reduce the need for license amendment requests and exemptions from existing regulations; address other decommissioning issues deemed relevant by the NRC; and support the NRC's Principles of Good Regulation, including openness, clarity, and reliability. The NRC will hold a public meeting to promote full understanding of this proposed rule and to facilitate public comments.

DATES: Submit comments by May 17, 2022. Comments received after this date will be considered if it is practical to do so, but the Commission is able to ensure consideration only for comments received before this date.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by the following method (unless this document describes a different method for submitting comments on a specific subject); however, the NRC encourages electronic comment submission through the Federal rulemaking website:
• **Federal Rulemaking Website:** Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC-2015-0070. Address questions about NRC dockets to Dawn Forder; telephone: 301-415-3407; email: Dawn.Forder@nrc.gov. For technical questions contact the individual listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this document.
• **Email comments to:** Rulemaking.Comments@nrc.gov. If you do not receive an automatic email reply confirming receipt, then contact us at 301-415-1677.
• **Mail comments to:** Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, ATTN: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff.

For additional direction on obtaining information and submitting comments, see "Obtaining Information and Submitting Comments" in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this document.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Daniel I. Doyle, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001; telephone: 301-415-3746; email: Daniel.Doyle@nrc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
Executive Summary
A. Need for the Regulatory Action
The NRC is proposing to amend its regulations related to the decommissioning of production and utilization facilities. The Commission directed the NRC staff to proceed with an integrated rulemaking on nuclear power reactor decommissioning to address the following: A graded approach to emergency preparedness (EP), lessons learned from the licensees that have already gone through (or are currently going through) the decommissioning process, the advisability of requiring a licensee's post-shutdown decommissioning activities report (PSDAR) to be approved by the NRC, the appropriateness of maintaining the three existing options for decommissioning and the timeframes associated with those options, the appropriate role of State and local governments and non-governmental stakeholders in the decommissioning process, and any other issues deemed relevant by the NRC staff.
Compared to an operating nuclear power reactor, the risk of an offsite radiological release is significantly lower, and the types of possible accidents are significantly fewer, at a nuclear power reactor that has permanently ceased operations and removed fuel from the reactor vessel. As a direct result, there is no need for the NRC to impose new requirements in the areas identified in this rulemaking to address safety or security concerns. Instead, the requirements in decommissioning should be aligned with the reduction in risk that occurs over time, while maintaining safety and security. The decommissioning process can be improved and made more efficient, open, and predictable by reducing the reliance on licensing actions (i.e., license amendment and exemption requests) that reflect this reduction in risk to achieve a sustainable regulatory framework during decommissioning.

The NRC has also determined that changes to the regulations are appropriate with respect to drug and alcohol testing; cyber security; and foreign ownership, control, or domination of a production or utilization facility undergoing decommissioning.
In several areas, the current regulations do not distinguish between provisions that apply to a nuclear power reactor that has permanently ceased operations and provisions that apply to an operating nuclear power reactor. To address this, the NRC is proposing to amend its regulations in several areas to provide a regulatory framework for the transition from operating to decommissioning. This proposed rule is a four-stop graded approach that is commensurate with the reduction in radiological risk at four levels of decommissioning: (1) Permanent cessation of operations and permanent removal of all fuel from the reactor vessel; (2) sufficient decay of fuel in the spent fuel pool (SFP) such that it would not reach ignition temperature within 10 hours under adiabatic heatup conditions (i.e., a complete loss of SFP water inventory with no heat loss); (3) transfer of all fuel to dry storage; and (4) removal of all fuel from the site. The graded approach is a fundamental concept for this proposed rule.
Because the current regulatory framework for decommissioning is adequate to protect public health and safety, many of the new requirements in this proposed rule are alternatives to current requirements.
B. Major Provisions
Major provisions of this proposed rule include changes in the following areas:
• **Emergency preparedness:** This proposed rule offers an alternative, graded approach to the current requirements for onsite and offsite radiological emergency preparedness at a nuclear power reactor. This approach would provide four levels of emergency planning standards that coincide with significant milestones in decommissioning that reflect the gradual reduction of the radiological risk during decommissioning:
• **Physical security:** This proposed rule would make certain changes that would apply once a nuclear power reactor enters decommissioning. These proposed changes would (1) permit a certified fuel handler (CFH) to approve the temporary suspension of security measures during certain emergency conditions or during severe weather, (2) remove the regulatory requirement that a licensee's physical protection program be

Next Steps

- Public comment period ends: May 17, 2022
- Final rule to the Commission: October 2023 (estimated)
- Final rule publication: May 2024 (estimated)

Public Feedback and Questions

How did we do?

- NRC Public Meeting Feedback Form (QR code):



- The public meeting feedback form is also available on the [meeting details](#) page.

Acronyms

ADAMS Agencywide Documents Access and Management System

BWR boiling water reactor

CFR *Code of Federal Regulations*

COL combined license

CSP cyber security plan

DG draft regulatory guide

FRN *Federal Register* notice

GEIS generic environmental impact statement

IOEP ISFSI-only emergency plan

ISFSI independent spent fuel storage installation

NPV net present value

NRC Nuclear Regulatory Commission

PDEP permanently defueled emergency plan

PSDAR post-shutdown decommissioning activities report

PSEP post-shutdown emergency plan

PWR pressurized water reactor

RG regulatory guide

SRM staff requirements memorandum