



U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
**34th ANNUAL REGULATORY
INFORMATION CONFERENCE**

MARCH 8-10, 2022

**PREPARING FOR
TOMORROW**
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Looking Forward in the Reactor Decommissioning Program

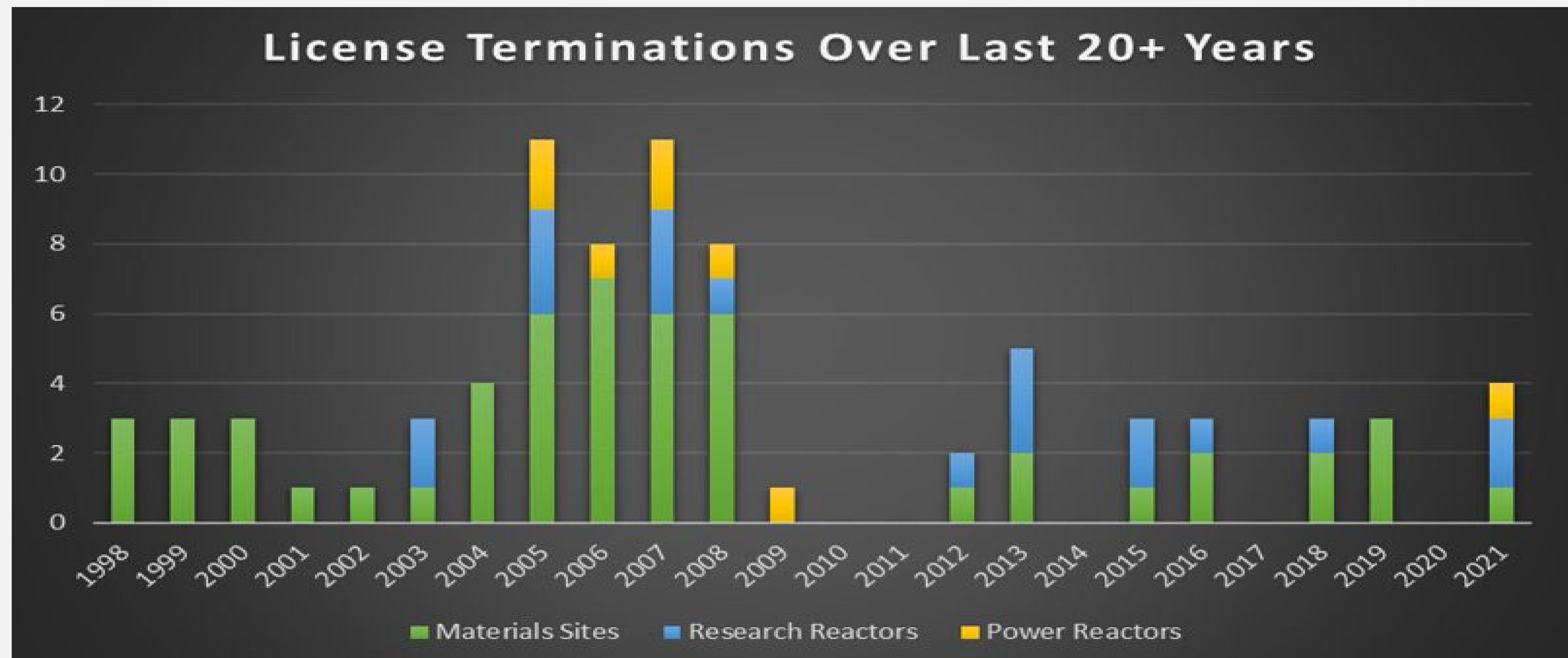
Session W14

Reactor Decommissioning Planning for Tomorrow

Bruce A. Watson, CHP

Chief, Reactor Decommissioning Branch

In 2022, the License Termination Rule will be 25 years old

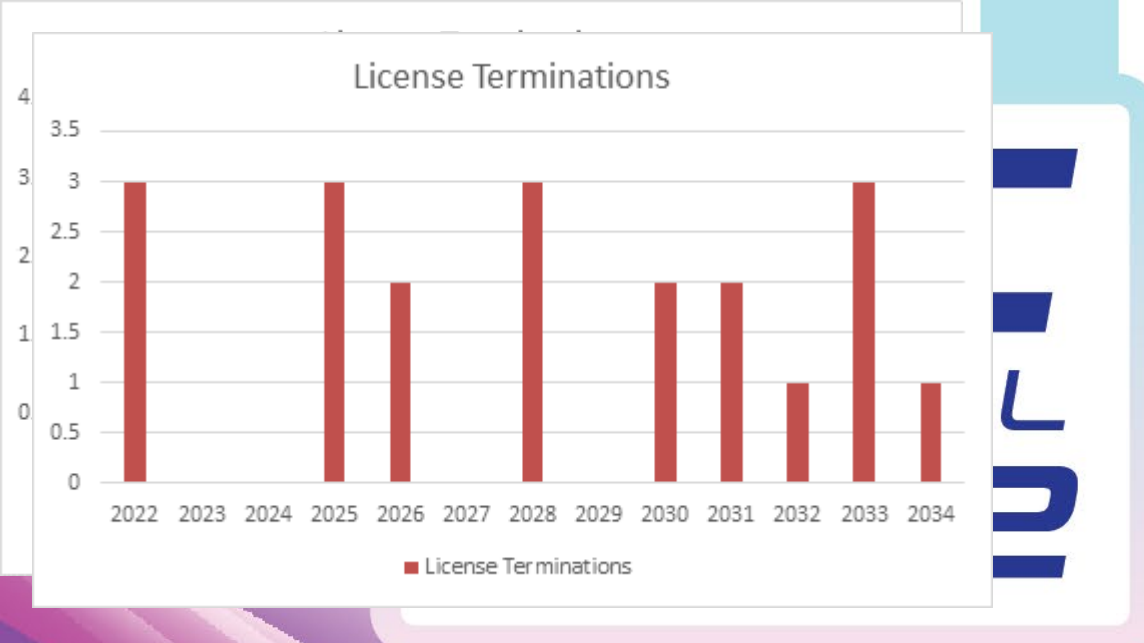


2021 Decommissioning Accomplishments

- Humboldt Bay license termination
- General Atomics Mark F and Mark I license terminations
- Sigma Aldridge license termination
- Indian Point Units 2 and 3 transferred to NMSS
- Indian Point Postshutdown Decommissioning Activities Report Public Meeting
- Duane Arnold Postshutdown Decommissioning Activities Report Public Meeting
- Preparation for the Palisades permanent shutdown
- Completion of over 40 reactor decommissioning licensing actions in 2021

Looking Forward: Communications with Stakeholders

- Communications with State and local officials
- Decommissioning Community Advisory Boards/engagement panels
- Continued NRC participation in Community Advisory Board meetings, when invited
- Continued engagement by the Office of Public Affairs with news media and use of social media
- Continued engagement by the Office of Congressional Affairs with congressional staff
- Frequent government-to-government meetings
 - NRC State Liaison Officers in contact with State and local officials
 - NRC Tribal Liaisons in contact with Native American Tribes



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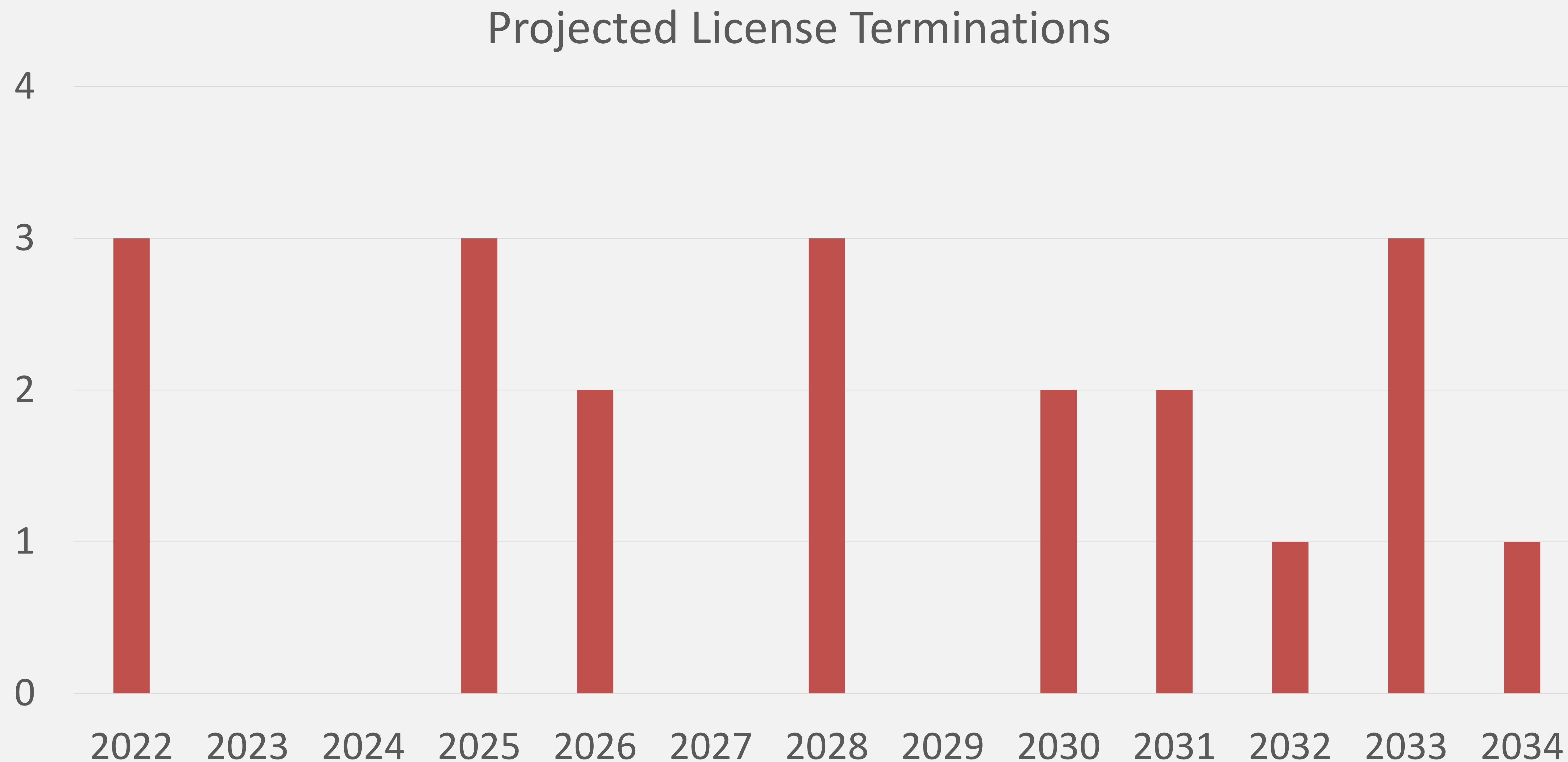
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Looking Forward: Projected License Terminations





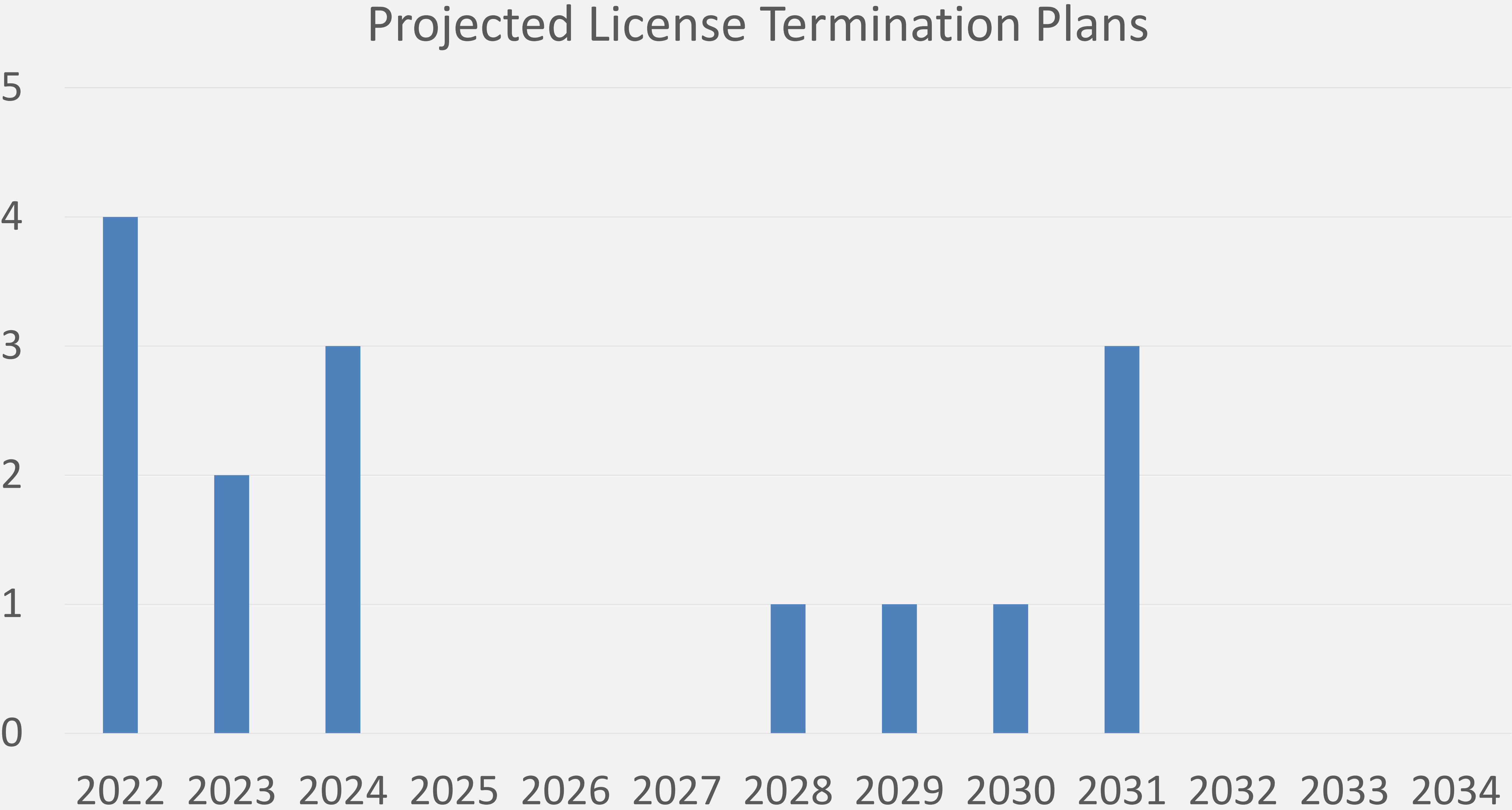
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Looking Forward: Projected License Termination Plans



Looking Forward: Smart Licensing

- Smart Licensing
 - Licensee presubmittal meetings
 - Staff acceptance reviews
 - Reviews of draft requests for additional information to ensure understanding
 - Planned early site visits by NRC staff!
- Reminder: Your license termination plans

Looking Forward: Addressing NRC Resource Needs

- Reactor Decommissioning Strategic Budget Plan
 - Decommissioning Project Managers
 - Decommissioning Health Physicists
 - Risk Analysts
- Nuclear Regulator Apprenticeship Network
- Comprehensive Health Physics (HP) Training Program
- NRC regional offices consolidated Reactor Operating HP and Decommissioning HP Inspectors
- Decommissioning staff cross-qualified as Decommissioning Inspectors

Conclusions: Challenging Years Ahead

- With the number of license termination plans expected, licensees need to plan to allow for adequate NRC staff time to complete licensing requests
- Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act (NEIMA) reporting to Congress makes it incumbent on licensees to provide quality license termination plans
- Should there be more license transfers to accelerate decommissioning?
- Should industry share lessons learned and best practices?
- Are there adequate technical resources?
- How will the potential approval of spent fuel consolidated interim storage applications impact the decommissioning of the reactor sites?