



Guidelines for Commenting on NRC's Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Regulatory Improvements for Decommissioning Power Reactors

On November 19, 2015, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) to obtain input from stakeholders on the development of potential changes to the NRC's regulations for the decommissioning of nuclear reactors. According to the ANPRM published in the Federal Register, the goals in amending these regulations would be to "provide an efficient decommissioning process, reduce the need for exemptions from existing regulations, and support the principles of good regulation, including openness, clarity, and reliability."

If your community hosts a nuclear power station, or is home to a substantial number of nuclear plant employees, the ANPRM comment period provides a rare opportunity to express the importance of host community engagement in the closure and decommissioning process.

The ANPRM published in the Federal Register on November 19, 2015 can be viewed [here](#). **Comments are due by January 4, 2016.**

NADO members and host communities are encouraged to submit public comments to NRC on the ANPRM on Regulatory Improvements for Decommissioning Power Reactors. Sample language that you may customize to reflect your experience as a host community is provided below.

How to Submit Comments

Please include the agency name (U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission) and docket number (NRC-2015-0070) at the beginning of your comments. All comments received will be posted online.

Comments may be submitted online [here](#).

You may email comments to: Rulemaking.Comments@nrc.gov

You may mail comments to: Secretary
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001
ATTN: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff

Below is sample language you may use in your comments.

Sample Language

I am submitting comments on the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (Docket No. NRC-2015-0070) on behalf of ***name of your organization***. I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the development of potential changes to the decommissioning process for nuclear power reactors.

First, I would like to respectfully request that NRC extend the comment period for the Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) for an additional 45 days, until February 18, 2016. This will give stakeholders necessary additional time to draft and submit comments. The original comment deadline of January 4 is insufficient given the number of federal holidays that fall during the comment period.

Communities that host nuclear power reactors should be actively and substantially engaged in the decommissioning process from the outset. Host communities face a number of significant impacts upon reactor closure including orderly redevelopment of the site, direct and indirect economic impacts related to the loss of employee income and tax revenue, changes in emergency planning requirements and support, and other fiscal impacts related to a major shift in the local economy and employment. I strongly support more direct engagement with host communities in NRC's decommissioning and closure process.

Section V of the ANPRM entitled "Specific Considerations" asks whether the current role of stakeholders in the decommissioning process should be expanded or enhanced, and how so? The response from communities that host nuclear facilities is a resounding yes. A way to expand engagement is through the establishment of a host community decommissioning task force to advise NRC on community impacts before, during, and after reactor closure. While the ANPRM acknowledges that for most decommissioning sites, state and local governments are involved in an advisory capacity (as part of a Community Engagement Panel for instance), there is no requirement under current NRC regulations that these advisory panels be formed. As NRC examines potential changes to current regulations, mandating these panels would be an appropriate step toward ensuring local community engagement.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Regulatory Improvements for Decommissioning Power Reactors (Docket No. NRC-2015-0070).

Your Name

Your Organization