

CHAPTER 5A

NUCLEAR PLANT DECOMMISSIONING COST AND TRUST FUND REVIEW

Authority

N.J.S.A. 48:2-13 and 48:2-21.

Source and Effective Date

R.2008 d.333, effective October 7, 2008.
See: 40 N.J.R. 3594(a), 40 N.J.R. 6472(a).

Chapter Expiration Date

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:14B-5.1b, Chapter 5A, Nuclear Plant Decommissioning Cost and Trust Fund Review, expires on October 7, 2015. See: 43 N.J.R. 1203(a).

Chapter Historical Note

Chapter 5A, Nuclear Plant Decommissioning Cost and Trust Fund Review, was adopted as R.1992 d.472, effective January 4, 1993. See: 23 N.J.R. 3239(b), 25 N.J.R. 193(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No.66(1978), Chapter 5A, Nuclear Plant Decommissioning Cost and Trust Fund Review, was readopted as R.1997 d.539, effective November 19, 1997. See: 29 N.J.R. 2637(a), 29 N.J.R. 5329(b).

Chapter 5A, Nuclear Plant Decommissioning Cost and Trust Fund Review, was readopted as R.2003 d.227, effective May 8, 2003. See: 34 N.J.R. 4338(a), 35 N.J.R. 2491(a).

Chapter 5A, Nuclear Plant Decommissioning Cost and Trust Fund Review, was readopted as R.2008 d.333, effective October 7, 2008. See: Source and Effective Date. See, also, section annotations.

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SUBCHAPTER 1. PURPOSE, SCOPE AND DEFINITIONS

14:5A-1.1 Purpose and scope

The rules contained in this chapter are designed to provide a mechanism of periodic review of the estimated costs of decommissioning nuclear generating stations owned by New Jersey electric utilities for the purpose of assuring that adequate funds are available at the cessation of commercial operation of each of the facilities to assure completion of decommissioning activities. The rules also set forth decommissioning trust fund reporting requirements for electric utilities and procurement guidelines for the selection of investment managers and trustees, in order to provide the Board timely information related to its oversight of the utilities' management of the funds.

14:5A-1.2 Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. Additional definitions that apply to this chapter can be found at N.J.A.C. 14:3-1.1.

"Board" means the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities or its successor.

"Decommissioning" means to remove a facility safely from service and reduce residual radioactivity to a level that permits release of the property for unrestricted use and termination of NRC operating license.

"DECON" means the method of decommissioning in which the equipment, structures, and portions of a facility and site containing radioactive contaminants are removed or decontaminated to a level that permits the property to be released for unrestricted use after cessation of operations.

"DEP" means the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection or its successor.

"DOH" means the New Jersey Department of Health or its successor.

"DOTNJ" means the New Jersey Department of Transportation or its successor.

"DOTUS" means the United States Department of Transportation or its successor.

"Electric public utility" means all electric public utilities as defined by N.J.S.A. 48:2-13, but does not mean municipally owned electric public utilities.

“ENTOMB” means the method by which radioactive contaminants are encased in a structurally long-lived material, such as concrete. The entombed structure is appropriately maintained, and continued surveillance is carried out until the radioactivity decays to a level permitting unrestricted release of the property.

“Nonqualified fund” means a segregated fund established and maintained in the United States pursuant to an arrangement that qualifies as a trust under State Law and under 10 C.F.R. 50.75 for the purpose of providing funds for nuclear decommissioning. A utility under Section 1.468A of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) of 1986, as amended, is allowed no deduction from its taxable income for contributions to the nonqualified fund.

“NRC” means the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission or its successor.

“Qualified fund” means a segregated fund established and maintained in the United States pursuant to an arrangement that qualifies as a trust under State Law and under 10 C.F.R. 50.75 for the purpose of providing funds for nuclear decommissioning in accordance with Section 1.468A of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) of 1986, as amended. A utility under Section 1.468A is allowed to deduct from its taxable income, IRS-approved contributions to the qualified fund subject to certain limitations.

“Rate Counsel” means the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel in the Department of the Public Advocate, or its successor agency.

“SAFSTOR” means the method by which the nuclear facility is placed and maintained in a condition that allows the nuclear facility to be safely stored and subsequently decontaminated (deferred decontamination) to levels that permit release for unrestricted use.

“Significant changes” means:

1. Any increases or decreases in the total original cost estimates greater than 2.5 percent or a change of \$1,000,000 or more in any single line item;
2. Addition of a cost category or deletion of a cost category;
3. A new cost assumption, or elimination of an assumption having a cost impact of \$1,000,000 or more;
4. A change in the date for the cessation of commercial operations at the nuclear generating station; or
5. A change in the choice of decommissioning options.

Amended by R.1997 d.539, effective December 15, 1997.
See: 29 N.J.R. 2637(a), 29 N.J.R. 5329(b).

Amended “Board”, “DEP”, “Non-qualified fund” and “Qualified fund”; added “Ratepayer Advocate” and “Significant changes”; and deleted “Public Advocate”.

Amended by R.1998 d.186, effective April 20, 1998.
See: 30 N.J.R. 27(a), 30 N.J.R. 1423(b).

In “Significant changes”, added 4 and 5.
Amended by R.2008 d.333, effective November 3, 2008.
See: 40 N.J.R. 3594(a), 40 N.J.R. 6472(a).

In the introductory paragraph, inserted the last sentence; deleted definition “Ratepayer Advocate”; and added definition “Rate Counsel”.

SUBCHAPTER 2. DECOMMISSIONING COST UPDATE

14:5A-2.1 Filing

(a) Every New Jersey electric public utility having an ownership interest in one or more nuclear generating stations in commercial operation shall file by January 1, 1996, and every four years thereafter, unless otherwise directed by the Board, a “Decommissioning Cost Update” (Update) with the Board for its consideration. Such Update filing shall be accompanied by the site-specific decommissioning cost information required by N.J.A.C. 14:5A-2.2. If the site-specific decommissioning cost study is not available on the required filing date, an extension for filing same shall be requested by the electric public utility indicating the reason(s) for the delay and the expected filing date, which shall be no later than 60 days from the required filing date.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of (a) above, at or about five years prior to the scheduled cessation of commercial operation of a nuclear generating station a Decommissioning Cost Update shall be filed for that station(s) and a revised filing made thereafter to reflect any significant changes in the update as they become known.

(c) At such time as the licensee of a nuclear generating station, in which a New Jersey electric public utility has an ownership interest, applies to the NRC for termination of its license and submits a decommissioning plan under 10 CFR 50.82, that New Jersey electric public utility shall submit to the Board a copy of the decommissioning plan submitted to the NRC under 10 CFR 50.82. Following the permanent cessation of commercial operations, the New Jersey electric public utility shall also submit a copy of the post-shutdown decommissioning activities report (PSDAR) submitted to the NRC under 10 CFR 50.82.

(d) If the Board has fully reviewed the decommissioning cost issue for a nuclear generating facility outside the context of this chapter within three years of the required date of an Update filing, the electric public utility may, in lieu of filing a “Decommissioning Cost Update” as required in (a) above, file a certification that no significant changes have occurred in the estimates presented since that review. The electric public utility shall file with its certification any information required by N.J.A.C. 14:5A-2.2 that was not addressed in that previous review.

(e) If the Board has accepted an electric public utility’s initial decommissioning cost estimates within the context of this chapter, the electric public utility may, in lieu of filing a “Decommissioning Cost Update” as required in (a) above,