the graphite and carbon-steel PCRV components. Throughout the history of operation of the reactor, both the helium purification system and the PCRV evacuation systems were used for moisture removal.

On August 18, 1989, the plant was taken off line to address an issue with stuck control rods. During shutdown, an inspection revealed several hairline cracks in the main ring header that routed steam from 12 steam generators. It proved too costly to repair and sealed the fate of the plant—the reactor was never restarted.

Decommissioning activities were started in 1989 with the final radiological survey process taking place between 1994 and 1996. It was reported that more than 400,000 physical measurements were used in this survey, which took more than 900 person-months over one and a half years. After the fuel was removed, the concrete reactor vessel was removed. To protect workers from radiation exposure, the PCRV was flooded with water. Fuel unloaded from Fort St. Vrain was placed in a passively cooled independent spent fuel storage installation. Decommissioning activities concluded with low radiological exposures and within schedule and original cost goals. On Tuesday, August 5, 1997, the NRC released a memo stating, "The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has terminated the operating license of the decommissioned Fort St. Vrain Nuclear Generating Station near Platteville, Colorado, and released the site for unrestricted use, as requested by the licensee, Public Service Company of Colorado."

After decommissioning activities were complete, the site was converted to produce electricity using a combined-cycle natural gas combustion.

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