

financial protection requirements and indemnity agreements, and application of the backfit rule. The NRC staff is also recommending that reporting and documentation requirements be clarified in the areas of spent fuel and low-level radioactive waste management; structures, systems, and components; and environmental reporting requirements.

The regulatory basis also reiterates the NRC's conclusions that regulatory activities other than rulemaking—such as guidance development—can be pursued to address the appropriate role of state and local governments in the D&D process, the level of NRC review of the post-shutdown decommissioning activities report, and the 60-year limit for power reactor decommissioning. In addition to the regulatory basis, the NRC staff plans to issue a revised preliminary draft of the regulatory analysis, which will update and refine the analysis of costs and benefits.

The NRC plans to publish a proposed decommissioning rule for public comment in 2018.

● The Nuclear Regulatory Commission published notice in the Oct. 6, 2017, *Federal Register* that it is discontinuing its prompt remediation rulemaking activities. As a result of the NRC's evaluations and stakeholder interactions, the agency said it will no longer pursue changes to regulations in 10 CFR Part 20 to require licensees to remediate, during facility operations, releases of residual radioactivity into the surface and subsurface of their facility sites.

The NRC began studying the potential need for a prompt remediation rulemaking in 2007. Based on the staff's evaluation of how licensees are complying with current regulations, however, the NRC commissioners determined that licensees are operating their facilities to minimize leaks and spills, monitoring for residual radioactivity, adjusting decommissioning funding to account for residual surface and subsurface radioactivity, and maintaining doses to the public within regulatory limits.

● A contaminated Air Force building in Georgia will be decommissioned under a plan likely to be approved by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. As published in the Sept. 19, 2017, *Federal Register*, the NRC has issued an environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact regarding the plan submitted by the Department of the Air Force for decommissioning Building 181 at the Robins Air Force Base, about 18 miles south of Macon, Ga.

If the NRC approves the plan, the Air Force will remediate residual depleted uranium from inside and underneath Building 181, reducing the residual radioactivity to levels that will allow the property to be released for unrestricted use. Based on its assessment, the NRC said that it plans to approve the proposed decommissioning plan by amending the Air Force's nuclear materials license.

● The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency announced on January 5 that federal and provincial authorities have reviewed the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the decommissioning of the Whiteshell Reactor 1 (WR-1). Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) is proposing an *in situ* approach to the decommissioning of WR-1, a research reactor located at the Whiteshell Laboratories site in Pinawa, Manitoba, that operated until 1985.

The project's environmental review is being carried out by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC), which has identified a number of areas where additional information will need to be included in the final EIS and other technical supporting documentation. The CNSC staff's assessment is reflected in a series of comments that have been consolidated with those of other federal and provincial authorities participating in the review. CNL will address all of the comments before submitting a final EIS to the CNSC, which will then make a determination as to whether the information provided is complete.

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