

PSEG Nuclear, LLC
ZEC 2 – Hope Creek
Docket No: ER20080559

Response to Discovery Request: HC-IUD-0007
Date: 10/1/2020

Question:

Describe the status of decommissioning funds for the Unit as of the date of the application, include decommissioning status reports filed with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (“NRC”), and identify any shortfall of decommissioning funds resulting from early retirement of the Unit.

Attachments Provided Herewith: YES - CONFIDENTIAL AND NON-CONFIDENTIAL

Response:

See attached documents:

The decommissioning funding for Hope Creek is sufficient to meet all regulatory requirements. This is supported by the attached decommissioning status reports filed with the NRC and FERC. The most recent report to the NRC was filed in March 2019 based on the funds balance at the end of the year, 2018. The most recent report to FERC was filed in March 2020 based on the funds balance at the end of 2019. PSEG conducts internal reviews annually to ensure fund adequacy.

Given the decommissioning activities under the Safstor method, assets have a longer time period over which the NDT investments are expected to appreciate in value to be sufficient to meet the expected decommissioning obligation.

Safstor is an approved approach by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). In Safstor, a nuclear plant is kept intact and placed in protective storage for an extended period of time. All fuel is removed from the reactor vessel and placed in fuel pools or dry storage on-site. The NRC continues to inspect the site and provides regulatory oversight of maintenance and security appropriate to the low risk profile of the site. The plant is dismantled once radioactivity has decayed to lower levels and the safety risk to workers is substantially reduced. The entire process must be completed within 60 years of the plant ceasing operations.

Company decommissioning plans include the use of the Safstor process and result in no expected shortfalls in decommissioning funds from early retirement.

The current fund balance is provided in a confidential attachment.

Also attached are: LR-N19-0014_Decom Fund for Reactors and ISFSI.pdf and PSEG FERC Decommissioning Funds report-2019.pdf