

the NRC will gather public feedback on the rulemaking. Holahan said that the NRC may extend the comment period if requested. The NRC also intends to conduct at least two public meetings on the proposed rule during the comment period.

“We are going to take extensive measures to ensure awareness and a wide range of input from the public to ensure we get this right,” Holahan said, adding that public input had played an important role in the development of the rule when the NRC published an advance notice of the proposed rulemaking in 2015, and again when a draft regulatory basis was published in 2017.

Holahan outlined several additional steps the NRC is taking to improve the decommissioning process, including updating agency guidance and inspection procedures. This includes, she said, revisions being made to the two volumes of NUREG-1757: *Consolidated Decommissioning*

*Guidance: Decommissioning Process for Materials Licensees* (NUREG-1757, vol. 1, rev. 2), and *Consolidated Decommissioning Guidance: Characterization, Survey, and Determination of Radiological Criteria* (NUREG-1757, vol. 2, rev. 1).

Volume 2 was published for comment in late 2020, and Holahan said that NRC staff is currently analyzing the comments received. She expects the final guidance to be issued by June 2022.

Holahan also said that in response to the growing number of nuclear power reactors entering decommissioning, the NRC is adjusting its budgeting process, allocating more licensing and oversight resources for plants taking on an accelerated decommissioning schedule.

“We realized that with a number of sites coming in with license termination plans, we didn’t have sufficient resources at headquarters or the regional offices,” she said. ☒



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