



## ***Nuclear Plant Decommissioning Act***

### **Section-by-Section Summary**

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**Background:** The *Nuclear Plant Decommissioning Act of 2025* will make important reforms to the decommissioning process, provides new support for Community Advisory Boards, and invests in economic development in host communities throughout the decommissioning process.

#### **Section 1 – Short Title: *The Nuclear Plant Decommissioning Act***

#### **Section 2 – Post-Shutdown Decommissioning Activities Reports**

- Amends the *Atomic Energy Act of 1954*.
- Requires licensees to consult with State and local governments affected by the closure of a nuclear plant prior to submitting, revising, or transferring a post-shutdown decommissioning activity report (PSDAR).
  - PSDARs submitted to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) must be publicly available, with exceptions for sensitive information that would compromise trade, commercial, financial, or national security secrets.
- Requires the NRC to hold a minimum 90-day public comment period and conduct at least 2 public meetings to solicit feedback on a proposed PSDAR.
- Allows a host State to submit a statement of 1) support, 2) conditional support, pending the adoption of specific recommendations, or 3) nonsupport for a proposed PSDAR or license transfer.
  - If a State expresses conditional support, NRC would evaluate proposed recommendations and determine whether any are inappropriate. Recommendations may be deemed inappropriate if they violate existing law or if the costs of the change substantially outweigh the safety, economic, or environmental benefits to the host State. Recommendations deemed appropriate shall be adopted in the PSDAR.
- Directs the NRC to determine the adequacy of a proposed PSDAR or consent to a license transfer, taking into consideration public comments; statements of support or nonsupport from the host State; protections for public health, the environment, public safety, and national security; and the likelihood of the licensee/transferee implementing the PSDAR, including financial capacity.
- Allows licensees to revise and resubmit a PSDAR should the NRC determine the proposed PSDAR is inadequate.

- Requires licensees seeking to transfer their license to conduct public consultation.
- Requires all PSDARs to comply with applicable State laws related to air, water, or soil quality or radiological standards.
- For plants undergoing decommissioning prior to passage of this *Act*, licensees may resubmit or revise existing PSDARs. Host States may comment on existing or resubmitted PSDARs.

### **Section 3 – Grant Programs to Support the Activities of Community Advisory Boards**

- Establishes a short-term grant program for States and Tribes to immediately support the activities of community advisory boards. Community Advisory Boards (CABs) are an organization aimed at fostering communication between a licensee and members of a community that may be impacted by the decommissioning of a nuclear plant.
- CABs may use grant funding to consult with experts; cover administrative costs and travel expenses; maintain a website or other online presence; contract for services; prepare reports; reimburse volunteers; or other necessary expenses.
- Directs the NRC, to the maximum extent practicable, to follow the recommendations submitted to Congress in the report “Best Practices for Establishment and Operation of Local Community Advisory Boards Associated with Decommissioning Activities at Nuclear Power Plants” commissioned by the *Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act* (PL 115-439).
- Small, rural, or disadvantaged communities are exempt from cost-share requirements.
- Authorizes \$12.5 million for this program between FY26-28.
- Establishes a Community Advisory Board Fund to award grants to States and Tribes to support the long-term activities of community advisory boards.
- The Fund is paid into by licensees beginning the decommissioning process at a rate of 1) \$500,000 per nuclear power plant decommissioned or 2) \$500,000 per nuclear power plant in which a nuclear generation unit is decommissioned.
- Requires that licensees submitting PSDARs with consultation required under Sec. 1 certify that they have paid into the Fund in accordance with the fee schedule.

### **Section 4 – Authorization of Appropriations to Assist Nuclear Closure Communities**

- Authorizes \$35,000,000 for each of FY26-34 to the Economic Development Administration (EDA) to assist in the economic development of communities in which a nuclear power plant has recently closed.

- Funds appropriated may be used to provide technical assistance and implement projects in nuclear closure communities.
- Small, rural, and disadvantaged communities are exempt from cost-share requirements.

#### **Section 5 – Financial Assistance for Communities with Stranded Nuclear Waste**

- Establishes a non-competitive grant program to provide financial assistance to communities to offset the economic and social impacts of hosting stranded nuclear waste from a decommissioned nuclear power plant.
- Communities are compensated at a rate of \$15 per kilogram of spent nuclear fuel stored in a decommissioned nuclear power plant.
- Authorizes such sums as are necessary to carry out this section from FY26-FY35.

#### **Section 6 – Economic Development in Host Communities**

- Establishes a host community economic recovery account administered by the Economic Development Administration to support the economic recovery and development of former nuclear host communities.
- Funds for host communities will be made available 5 years before scheduled shutdown of a plant or the date on which the licensee submits a certification of cessation of operations, whichever is earlier.
- Accounts are funded by licensees at a rate of 2% of what would otherwise be deposited in the relevant nuclear decommissioning trust.