

### **N329. Early Decommissioning Cheaper, NRC Says**

An analysis performed for Nuclear Regulatory Commission indicated that decommissioning a PWR soon after it closes is cheaper than waiting decades for radiation to decay.

The study found that immediate dismantling would cost \$124.6 million, less than the cost of entombment for 60 years after first removing reactor internals (\$162.7 million). This estimation is lower than estimated by most US utilities who have conducted their own studies.

The decline is attributed largely to reduced estimates of the amount of low-level waste that would need to be disposed of, owing to new packaging methods and new standards that reduce the amount of concrete that must be shaved from contaminated areas of a plant from 2 inches to 1/4 inch.

For more, "Early Decommissioning Cheaper, NRC Says," *Nuclear Engineering International*, p. 9, August 1993.