Decommissioning Plant Coalition
Views Regarding
Consolidated Interim Storage

NRC Division of Spent Fuel Management
Regulatory Conference
November 19, 2015
Background on the DPC

• Formed in 2001
• Original members: Maine Yankee, Yankee Rowe, Connecticut Yankee, LaCrosse, and Rancho Seco.
• Additional members: Humboldt Bay, Exelon (Zion), San Onofre, and Vermont Yankee. Big Rock Point has been a participant.
• Maintains contact with all permanently shutdown plants and with the Nuclear Energy Institute, NRC, National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, and Nuclear Waste Strategy Coalition
Reason for the DPC

• Nuclear plants undergoing decommissioning and decontamination face different issues than operating reactors

• Recognition that, given the sharply reduced risk once operations cease, the attention and priority of industry and policymakers would be occupied with operating reactor matters

• Speaking together with one voice would enable those of us undergoing decommissioning to better advance our aims
Our Chief Aims

• Accelerate commencement of federal government’s removal of spent fuel from our sites pursuant to its contractual obligations

• Secure a pilot project for Consolidated Interim Storage (CIS) for spent fuel from permanently shutdown sites

• Continue progress toward a repository at Yucca Mountain

• Ensure NRC regulation of our sites is based on solid assessment of risk
Support for CIS Pilot Project*

• DPC has supported a Consolidated Interim Storage pilot project since 2001

• Pilot project is consistent with findings of Blue Ribbon Commission

• Responsibly addressing the permanently shut-down sites is a fiscal and management imperative
  – Could reduce government’s liability for breach of contract
  – Reduces need for local resources for oversight
  – Returns land to productive use more quickly

• CIS pilot project should move forward independently of Yucca Mountain

*It is not the DPC’s intent to change existing DOE spent fuel acceptance queue order used for purposes of spent fuel damages calculations
Support for Yucca Mountain

• A permanent repository is needed
• DPC supports repository at Yucca Mountain
• “the DPC urges you to include ...provisions that would support the continuation of Yucca Mountain licensing....”
  – from testimony of Einar Ronningen (Rancho Seco) on behalf of DPC at May 15, 2015, House Energy & Commerce Subcommittee Hearing, chaired by Congressman John Shimkus (R-IL)
DPC/NRC Interactions

• Recognizing the impacts that NRC regulatory changes would have on our facilities as on-site storage continued, DPC established an engaged working relationship with the NRC.

• Encouraging greater attention to determining if proposed rule or regulatory changes *should* apply to our facilities before release.

• Comments on Project AIM:
  – Focus upcoming Decommissioning rulemaking on codifying exemptions that are customarily granted.
  – Ensure NRC Storage & Transportation and Decommissioning functions remain sufficiently staffed as those workloads are and will be increasing.
  – Regulatory changes only when based on solid assessment of risk.