



NICO OESTREICH

Lülf+ Sicherheitsberatung GmbH
Bismarckstr. 29
41747 Viersen
Germany

www.luelf-plus.de

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DECOMMISSIONING OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS: FIRE BRIGADE PLANNING AND DYNAMICAL ADJUSTMENT OF FIRE PRECAUTIONS

In order to adapt the dimension of plant fire brigades to the progress of decommissioning, a well-founded risk assessment is necessary. This assessment must be transparently and comprehensibly connected with a phased plan of this progress.

In Germany, every nuclear power plant is required to maintain a plant fire brigade. The legal requirements result from regulations regarding nuclear, building and fire protection aspects. A risk assessment forms the basis for site-specific emergency-scenarios, on which the fire brigade must be designed.

During decommissioning, hazards and risks change in multiple ways. Radioactivity, fire loads, staff presence, hazardous activities, etc. constantly evolve during the various phases.

At the same time, the operating framework is changing: buildings getting modified, security

requirements getting retracted, fewer personnel is available etc.

This raises the question: how can operational fire protection be dynamically adapted to the progress of decommissioning?

A sweeping answer to this question is not possible. Due to different federal and regional laws as well as widely varying capabilities of the local public fire brigades, a site-specific assessment of the basic conditions and the local risk is unavoidable.

The main objective is to develop a phased plan connecting the requirements for a plant fire brigade and its dimension with the necessary capability to each phase of the decommission.

Based on this plan, it is possible to organize the fire brigade step-by-step in an effective and economically appropriate, forward-looking manner.

