

Internal Revenue Service, Treasury

§ 1.468A-1

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[T.D. 8184, 53 FR 6804, Mar. 3, 1988, as amended by T.D. 8461, 57 FR 62199, Dec. 30, 1992; T.D. 8580, 59 FR 66473, Dec. 27, 1994]

§ 1.468A-1 Nuclear decommissioning costs; general rules.

(a) *Introduction.* Section 468A provides an elective method for taking into account nuclear decommissioning costs for Federal income tax purposes. In general, an eligible taxpayer that elects the application of section 468A pursuant to the rules contained in § 1.468A-7 is allowed a deduction (as determined under § 1.468A-2) for the taxable year in which the taxpayer makes a cash payment to a nuclear decommissioning fund. Taxpayers using an accrual method of accounting that do not elect the application of section 468A are not allowed a deduction for nuclear decommissioning costs prior to the taxable year in which economic performance occurs with respect to such costs (see section 461(h)).

(b) *Definitions.* The following terms are defined for purposes of section 468A and the regulations thereunder:

(1) The term *eligible taxpayer* means any taxpayer that possesses a qualifying interest in a nuclear power plant (including a nuclear power plant that is under construction).

(2) The term *qualifying interest* means—

- (i) A direct ownership interest; and
- (ii) A leasehold interest in any portion of a nuclear power plant if—

(A) The holder of the leasehold interest is subject to the jurisdiction of a public utility commission with respect to such portion of the nuclear power plant;

(B) The holder of the leasehold interest is primarily liable under Federal or State law for decommissioning such portion of the nuclear power plant; and

(C) No other person establishes a nuclear decommissioning fund with respect to such portion of the nuclear power plant.

A direct ownership interest includes an interest held as a tenant in common or joint tenant, but does not include stock in a corporation that owns a nuclear power plant or an interest in a partnership that owns a nuclear power plant. Thus, in the case of a partnership that owns a nuclear power plant, the election under section 468A must be made by the partnership and not by the partners. In the case of an unincorporated organization described in § 1.761-2(a)(3) that elects under section 761(a) to be excluded from the application of subchapter K, each taxpayer that is a co-owner of the nuclear power plant is eligible to make a separate election under section 468A.

(3) The terms *nuclear decommissioning fund* and *qualified nuclear decommissioning fund* mean a fund that satisfies the requirements of § 1.468A-5. The term *nonqualified decommissioning fund* means a fund that does not satisfy those requirements.

(4) The term *nuclear power plant* means any nuclear power reactor that is used predominantly in the trade or business of the furnishing or sale of electric energy, if the rates for the furnishing or sale, as the case may be, either have been established or approved by a public utility commission or are under the jurisdiction of the Rural Electrification Administration. Each unit (i.e., nuclear reactor) located on a multi-unit site is a separate nuclear power plant. The term *nuclear power plant* also includes the portion of the common facilities of a multi-unit site allocable to a unit on that site.

(5) The term *nuclear decommissioning costs* or *decommissioning costs* means all otherwise deductible expenses to be incurred in connection with the entombment, decontamination, dismantlement, removal and disposal of the structures, systems and components of a nuclear power plant that has permanently ceased the production of electric energy. Such term includes all otherwise deductible expenses to be incurred in connection with the preparation for decommissioning, such as engineering and other planning expenses,

and all otherwise deductible expenses to be incurred with respect to the plant after the actual decommissioning occurs, such as physical security and radiation monitoring expenses. Such term does not include otherwise deductible expenses to be incurred in connection with the disposal of spent nuclear fuel under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (Pub. L. 97-425). An expense is otherwise deductible for purposes of this paragraph (b)(5) if it would be deductible under chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code without regard to section 280B.

(6) The term *public utility commission* means any State or political subdivision thereof, any agency, instrumentality or judicial body of the United States, or any judicial body, commission or other similar body of the District of Columbia or of any State or any political subdivision thereof that establishes or approves rates for the furnishing or sale of electric energy.

(7) The term *ratemaking proceeding* means any proceeding before a public utility commission in which rates for the furnishing or sale of electric energy are established or approved. Such term includes a generic proceeding that applies to two or more taxpayers that are subject to the jurisdiction of a single public utility commission.

(c) *Special rules applicable to certain experimental nuclear facilities.* (1) The owner of a qualifying interest in an experimental nuclear facility possesses a qualifying interest in a nuclear power plant for purposes of paragraph (b) of this section if—

(i) Such person is engaged in the trade or business of the furnishing or sale of electric energy;

(ii) The rates charged for electric energy furnished or sold by such person are established or approved by a public utility commission; and

(iii) The cost of decommissioning the facility is included in the cost of service of such person.

(2) An owner of stock in a corporation that owns an experimental nuclear facility possesses a qualifying interest in a nuclear power plant for purposes of paragraph (b)(1) of this section if—

(i) Such stockholder satisfies the conditions of paragraph (c)(1) (i) through (iii) of this section; and

(ii) The corporation that directly owns the facility is not engaged in the trade or business of the furnishing or sale of electric energy.

(3) For purposes of this paragraph (c), an experimental nuclear facility is a nuclear power reactor that is used predominantly for the purpose of conducting experimentation and research.

(d) *Special rules for electing taxpayers whose rates are under the jurisdiction of the Rural Electrification Administration.* Notwithstanding any other provision of the regulations under section 468A, a schedule of ruling amounts may be provided to a taxpayer with respect to a nuclear power plant if the rates for the furnishing or sale of the plant's electricity are under the jurisdiction of the Rural Electrification Administration. This schedule will be determined on the basis of all facts and circumstances in a manner consistent with section 468A. No taxpayer will be provided a schedule of ruling amounts under section 468A for any taxable year unless the portion of the rates attributable to the decommissioning costs of that taxpayer with respect to such taxable year are treated by the taxpayer as though they were subject to section 88.

[T.D. 8184, 53 FR 6805, Mar. 3, 1988, as amended by T.D. 8461, 57 FR 62199, Dec. 30, 1992; T.D. 8580, 59 FR 66473, Dec. 27, 1994]

§ 1.468A-2 Treatment of electing taxpayer.

(a) *In general.* An eligible taxpayer that elects the application of section 468A pursuant to the rules contained in § 1.468A-7 (an "electing taxpayer") is allowed a deduction for the taxable year in which the taxpayer makes a cash payment (or is deemed to make a cash payment as provided in paragraph (c) of this section) to a nuclear decommissioning fund. The amount of the deduction for any taxable year equals the total amount of cash payments made (or deemed made) by the electing taxpayer to a nuclear decommissioning fund (or nuclear decommissioning funds) during such taxable year. A payment may not be made (or deemed made) to a nuclear decommissioning fund before the first taxable year in which all of the following conditions are satisfied:

(1) The construction of the nuclear power plant to which the nuclear decommissioning fund relates has commenced.

(2) Nuclear decommissioning costs of the nuclear power plant to which the nuclear decommissioning fund relates are included in the taxpayer's cost of service for ratemaking purposes (see paragraph (b) of this section).

(3) A ruling amount is applicable to the nuclear decommissioning fund (see § 1.468A-3).

(b) *Limitation on payments to a nuclear decommissioning fund—(1) In general.* For purposes of paragraph (a) of this section, the maximum amount of cash payments made (or deemed made) to a nuclear decommissioning fund during any taxable year shall not exceed the lesser of:

(i) The cost of service amount applicable to the nuclear decommissioning fund for such taxable year (as defined in paragraph (b)(2) of this section); or

(ii) The ruling amount applicable to the nuclear decommissioning fund for such taxable year (as determined under § 1.468A-3).

If the amount of cash payments made (or deemed made) to a nuclear decommissioning fund during any taxable year exceeds the limitation of this paragraph (b)(1), the excess is not deductible by the electing taxpayer. In addition, see paragraph (c) of § 1.468A-5 for rules which provide that the Internal Revenue Service may disqualify a nuclear decommissioning fund if the amount of cash payments made (or deemed made) to a nuclear decommissioning fund during any taxable year exceeds the limitation of this paragraph (b)(1).

(2) *Cost of service amount.* (i) For purposes of section 468A and the regulations thereunder, the "cost of service amount applicable to a nuclear decommissioning fund for a taxable year" is the amount of decommissioning costs included in the electing taxpayer's cost of service for ratemaking purposes for such taxable year. Decommissioning costs are included in cost of service for a taxable year only to the extent such costs are directly or indirectly charged to customers of the taxpayer by reason of electric energy consumed during