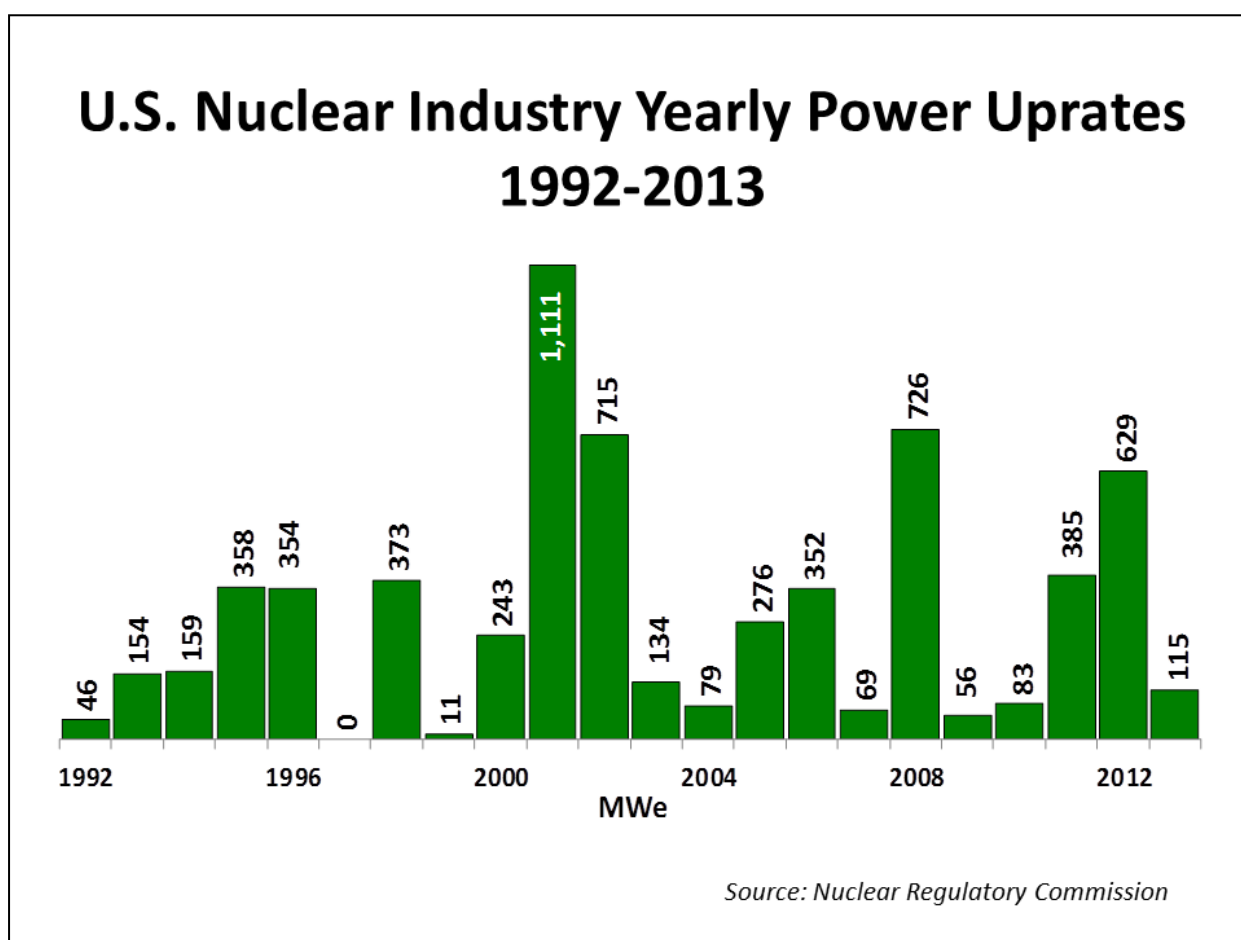


Power Upgrades at U.S. Nuclear Power Plants

The 100 nuclear reactors now operating were licensed under extremely conservative assumptions. Several decades of operating experience have shown that it is safe to increase the thermal output of these reactors, thereby allowing them to produce additional electricity. These upgrades provide additional zero-carbon generation. The 111(d) rule should recognize all upgrades initiated during and after the 2012 baseline year, and allow states to credit this additional output for compliance.

According to the NRC, as of April 2014, the NRC had approved 154 upgrades that added generating capacity equivalent to about seven new reactors.¹ In 2012, power upgrades at U.S. reactors totaled 629 additional megawatts of capacity; in 2013, 115 megawatts were added.



¹ NRC, Backgrounder on Power Upgrades for Nuclear Plants (April 2014), <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/fact-sheets/power-upgrades.html>