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NRC APPROVES ACTION PLAN TO ASSURE TIMELY
CLEANUP OF SITES CONTAMINATED WITH RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has approved an action plan that will help ensure the timely cleanup of a group of over 40 nuclear materials sites that the Commission has identified as being contaminated with radioactive materials and that warrant special attention by the Commission.

Some of these sites still are subject to the requirements of an active NRC license; for other sites, the NRC license has been terminated; and others never were licensed by the NRC.

All of the sites have buildings, former waste disposal areas, large piles of tailings, groundwater and/or soil contaminated with low levels of uranium or thorium or other radioactive materials and presenting varying degrees of radiological hazard, cleanup complexity and cost.

At some sites, licensees are financially and technically capable of completing cleanup in a reasonable time frame; at others, the licensee or other responsible party is unable or unwilling to perform cleanup. All of the sites are ready for decommissioning and, in some cases, decommissioning activities have been initiated; at others, no decommissioning plans have been prepared and no decommissioning work has been started.

Most of these sites (a list is attached) were identified in 1990 as part of the NRC staff's development of a Site Decommissioning Management Plan (SDMP) to identify and resolve issues associated with the timely cleanup of contaminated sites. The SDMP has been effective in ensuring coordination and resolution of some policy and regulatory issues, but progress on actual cleanup of these sites continues to be slow.

The Action Plan details the NRC's approach to assuring that cleanup of these sites is accelerated and communicates the Commission's general expectation that they be cleaned up in a timely and effective manner. Specifically, the plan:

(1) identifies current criteria to guide cleanup of contaminated soils, structures and equipment and emphasizes the site-specific application of the as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA) principle;

(2) states the NRC's position on the finality of decommissioning decisions;

(3) describes the NRC's general expectation that the cleanup of these sites will be completed within a four-year period after operations cease or three years after the NRC staff issues an initial cleanup order;

(4) identifies currently available guidance on site characterization work in support of decommissioning; and

(5) describes the process for timely cleanup on a site-specific basis.

The Action Plan does not contain enforceable standards and is not intended to create new rights or obligations on third parties. Implementation of the plan may require the establishment of legally-binding requirements by order or license amendment on a case-by-case basis and the plan is not intended to affect the hearing rights associated with such orders or license amendments.

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Attachment

EXISTING SITE DECOMMISSIONING MANAGEMENT PLAN (SDMP) SITES

Advanced Medical Systems	Cleveland, OH
ALCOA	Cleveland, OH
AMAX	Wood City, WV
Aberdeen Proving Ground	Aberdeen, MD
Army Arsenal	Watertown, MA
Babcock and Wilcox	Apollo, PA
Babcock and Wilcox	Parks Township, PA
BP Chemicals	Lima, OH
Budd Company	Philadelphia, PA
Cabot Corporation	Boyertown, PA
Cabot Corporation	Reading, PA
Cabot Corporation	Revere, PA
Chemetron Corporation (Bert Ave.)	Cleveland, OH
Chemetron Corporation (Harvard Ave.)	Cleveland, OH
Chevron Corporation	Pawling, NY
Dow Chemical	Midland, MI
Elkem Metals	Marietta, OH
Engelhard	Plainville, MA
Fansteel	Muskogee, OK
General Services Administration	Watertown, Boston, MA
Hartley and Hartley	Bay City, MI
Heritage Minerals	Lakehurst, NJ
Kerr-McGee (Cimmaron)	Crescent, OK
Kerr-McGee	Cushing, OK
Magnesium Elektron	Flemington, NJ
NE Ohio Regional Sewer District	Cuyahoga Heights, OH
Nuclear Metals	Concord, MA
Molycorp	Washington, PA
Molycorp	York, PA
Permagrain	Media, PA
Pesses Chemical	Pulaski, PA
Process Technology	Rockaway, NJ
Remington Arms Company	Independence, MO
RMI Titanium	Ashtabula, OH
Safety Light Corporation	Bloomsburg, PA
Schott Glass	Duryea, PA
Shieldalloy	Cambridge, MA
Shieldalloy	Newfield, NJ
Texas Instruments	Attleboro, MA
United Nuclear Corporation	Wood River Junction, RI
Victoreen	Cleveland, OH
Westinghouse (Waltz Mill)	Madison, PA
West Lake Landfill	St. Louis, MO
Whittaker Metals	Greenville, PA
Wyman-Gordon	North Grafton, MA
3M Company	New Brighton, MN

