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NRC SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON DRAFT REPORT REGARDING CLEANUP
OF SHIELDALLOY SITE IN CAMBRIDGE, OHIO

The NRC has published for public comment a draft environmental impact statement on the proposed decommissioning of the Shieldalloy Metallurgical Corporation's facility in Cambridge, Ohio.

The plant currently manufactures ferrovanadium, an alloy used in high-grade steel. Shieldalloy has a license to possess radioactive source material (thorium, uranium, and radioactive decay products) left on site when Shieldalloy acquired the property in 1987. This material is not used in the company's current manufacturing process.

Interested persons may submit written comments on the report to the Chief, Low-Level Waste and Decommissioning Projects Branch, Mail Stop T7F-27, Division of Waste Management, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001. Comments should be submitted by October 31. NRC plans to hold a public meeting this fall in the Cambridge area to hear views on the draft impact statement, the time and place to be announced later.

The previous owner, Foote Mineral Company, processed columbium ore from the early 1950s until 1973. These operations generated slightly radioactive slag in the form of a glass-like rock. Since that time, no NRC-licensed material has been processed at the Cambridge facility. The slag is NRC-regulated material, but the agency does not believe it threatens the safety of nearby residents.

Shieldalloy has been cleaning up the site since its purchase, and has consolidated the slag into two piles: the west pile, containing about 548,000 tons, and the east pile, with about 58,000 tons. The larger west pile has already been covered with clay, sand, and other materials. The company proposes to cover both slag piles, revegetate the area, institute long-term surveillance, and permanently restrict future use of the site.

The report, entitled "Draft Environmental Impact Statement; Decommissioning of the Shieldalloy Metallurgical Corporation, Cambridge, Ohio Facility," (NUREG-1543), describes the various decommissioning options available and weighs their effects on public health, safety and the environment. After the comment period, a final environmental impact statement will be prepared which will guide the NRC in reaching a decision on the cleanup plan.

Interested persons may obtain free single copies of the draft environmental impact statement by writing the NRC Publications Section, Attention: Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, P.O. Box 37082, Washington, DC 20013-7082, or by calling 202-512-1800. A copy of the report is also available in the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW, Washington, DC.

More information on the document is available in a notice published in the July 25 edition of the Federal Register.

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