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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NRC RELEASES SITE IN PAWLING, NY
FOR UNRESTRICTED USE

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has released a formerly licensed Gulf Nuclear Fuel Corporation site in Pawling, New York, for unrestricted use after verifying that NRC decommissioning requirements for the site have been met.

The original licensee and site owner was Nuclear Development Associates. After a series of corporate purchases and transitions, Chevron became the last successor company to the last licensee. The National Park Service is the current owner of the site.

Beginning in 1958, Nuclear Development Associates and several successor companies conducted licensed nuclear fuels research and development at the Pawling site. In December 1972 there was an explosion in a "glove box." Such boxes are commonly used to keep employee radiation exposure levels down by permitting hazardous experiments to be conducted in a sealed area that allows only the gloved hands of the employee to be inserted. The explosion resulted in substantial contamination of several rooms. Licensed activities ceased permanently after the explosion. Following site remediation and the performance of confirmatory surveys by the licensee and the Atomic Energy Commission, the research reactor licenses were terminated in June 1974 and the nuclear materials license was terminated in July 1975.

As a result of local public concerns about possible contamination at the site and in the so-called "Nuclear Lake," which is next to the site, additional surveys were conducted. A survey by Oak Ridge (Tennessee) Associated Universities (ORAU) found contamination in several buildings and in soils adjacent to the buildings. In 1986, ORAU found what it considered to be unusual objects in the lake. However, in 1992, a comprehensive underwater investigation was performed, and the unusual objects were identified as rocks, tree stumps, a sunken Jeep and a sunken boat. No radioactive waste was found in the lake.

Chevron and the National Park Service cleaned up the contaminated buildings and soils, under decommissioning plans approved by the NRC in 1992 and 1993. Confirmatory surveys to

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ensure that radiation had been reduced to levels acceptable to the NRC were conducted in the buildings and soil areas, as well as in some areas where previous surveys had not found contamination.

After reviewing Chevron Corporation's reports and radiological surveys of the facility, and a confirmatory radiological survey by Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (formerly ORAU), the NRC staff concluded that decommissioning had been satisfactorily completed and further remediation is not required.

The Pawling site also has been removed from the NRC Site Decommissioning Management Plan, which identifies about 50 sites throughout the United States that are contaminated with radioactive materials and warrant special attention by the NRC. The Pawling site is the fifth to be sufficiently remediated to be removed from the list.

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