

August 8, 2002

TO: DISTRIBUTION LIST

SUBJECT: WORKSHOP ON PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN RESTRICTED-USE  
DECOMMISSIONING

The U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution (USIECR) has just completed a project for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on effective public involvement in facility decommissioning. The NRC will host a workshop to discuss the results of the project – best practices for public involvement in general, with specific application to restricted-use decommissioning of NRC-licensed facilities (per 10CFR20.1403). The workshop is designed for licensees as well as both NRC and Agreement State regulators.

You are cordially invited to attend the one-day workshop. It will be held on Wednesday, September 4, 2002, at the NRC Headquarters in Rockville, MD. Doug Sarno, of the Perspectives Group, in Alexandria, VA (under contract with the USIECR) will be the primary workshop facilitator. The agenda for this workshop is attached (Attachment 1). Brief descriptions of the public involvement project (Attachment 2), and the USIECR (Attachment 3), are also included.

Attendance at the workshop will be limited to 30 participants. If more than 30 participants register, the workshop will be repeated on Thursday, September 5, 2002, at the same location. Please indicate when registering whether you would be able to attend the September 5, 2002, workshop, if it is held.

The workshop will start at 8:00 a.m. and end at 4:30 p.m. Participants from outside the Washington area may want to arrange for overnight accommodations. The closest hotels to NRC Headquarters and their telephone numbers are: Ramada, 1775 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852, (301) 881-2300, Double Tree Hotel, 1750 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852, (301) 468-1100, and Park Inn International Suites, 11410 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852 (301) 881-5200. Attendees are responsible for making their own hotel and travel arrangements and for associated costs.

Please call Cornelia Burkhalter, no later than August 16, 2002, at NRC (301) 415-6600 or via e-mail to [CAB3@NRC.GOV](mailto:CAB3@NRC.GOV), to register for the workshop.

Sincerely,

***/RA/***

Larry W. Camper, Chief  
Decommissioning Branch  
Division of Waste Management  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

Attachments:

1. Agenda
2. Public Involvement in Restricted-Use Decommissioning of NRC Licensed Facilities
3. The U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution

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OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

**Workshop on Public Involvement in Facility Decommissioning**  
**Nuclear Regulatory Commission Headquarters**  
**11545 Rockville Pike**  
**One White Flint North, Room O-14B6**  
**Rockville, MD**  
**Wednesday, September 4, 2002**  
**8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

**Agenda**

1. Introduction
2. Summary of the USIECR Project and Overview of the Workshop
3. Role Play: Lead Paint Scenarios
4. Review of the Best Practices Report
5. Overview of Effective Public Involvement
6. Plan for Public Involvement According to the Potential for Public Impact
  - Planning and Situation Assessment
  - Selecting an Appropriate Level of Public Involvement
  - Developing a Formal Public Involvement Plan

Dialog: Challenges to selecting levels of involvement
7. Establish Stakeholder Relationships Through Effective Dialog
  - Element of Genuine Dialog
  - Developing Forums for Effective Dialog
  - Reaching Out to the Public

Dialog: Challenges to establishing effective relationships and dialog
8. Develop and Deliver Information for Meaningful Involvement at the Selected Level
  - Creating Effective Information
  - Delivering Information Effectively
  - Recognizing Multiple Audiences

Dialog: Developing effective information for decommissioning projects

Exercise: Fixing the Lead Paint Problem
9. Select Formats and Design Program to Match Objectives
  - Setting Clear Objectives (Quick Exercise)
  - Public Involvement Tools & Techniques
  - Evaluating Against Objectives

Dialog: Applying these practices in the real world
10. Wrap Up and Evaluation

## **Public Involvement in Restricted-Use Decommissioning of NRC-Licensed Facilities**

Cleanup of sites contaminated with radiation can be extremely controversial in the community where the site is located. Such controversy is exacerbated when a licensee proposes restricted use decommissioning rather than cleaning the site to meet unrestricted use guidelines. Public knowledge of the issues and involvement in decision-making is crucial for restricted use proposals, but achieving efficient and effective public involvement is often difficult. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) acknowledges the need for public involvement in the decommissioning process and has promulgated relevant regulations (10CFR20.1403).

In seeking involvement of and advice from the public, the NRC licensee must provide for participation by stakeholders representing a broad cross-section of community interests. Stakeholders can include (in addition to the licensee): Federal, state and local regulatory organizations, local community leaders, boards and councils, local residents, groups and individual residents, Native America groups, and others. Public forums and processes must be designed to allow for appropriate representations, comprehensive and open discussions, written descriptions of individual perspectives and points of collective agreement and disagreement among the participants (and submission of such descriptions as part of a site proposal by the licensee), and, ultimately, implementation of the proposal if accepted by the NRC. Demonstration of compliance with these requirements can be difficult for the licensee. Furthermore, evaluation of compliance can be problematic for the NRC and for Agreement State regulators.

The NRC has concluded that the development of best practices for meeting the performance objectives of its public involvement regulations would be useful. Under an interagency agreement, the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution has prepared a best practices guidance document for the NRC. The guidance is based, in part, on information obtained from stakeholders at NRC licensed sites who have experience with public involvement concerning radioactive contamination and long-term management of contaminated sites. The Institute has also prepared a curriculum and will deliver training to licensees and regulators on the use of best practices for public involvement in general, and with particular application to the restricted use decommissioning process. The intended audience includes licensees as well as both NRC and Agreement State regulators.

## **The U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution**

The U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution is a federal program established by the U.S. Congress to assist parties in resolving environmental, natural resource, and public lands conflicts. The Institute is part of the Morris K. Udall Foundation, an independent federal agency of the executive branch overseen by a board of trustees appointed by the President. The Institute serves as an impartial, non-partisan institution providing professional expertise, services, and resources to all parties involved in such disputes, regardless of who initiates or pays for assistance. The Institute helps parties determine whether collaborative problem solving is appropriate for specific environmental conflicts, how and when to bring all the parties to the table, and whether a third-party facilitator or mediator might be helpful in assisting the parties in their efforts to reach consensus or to resolve the conflict. In addition, the Institute maintains a roster of qualified facilitators and mediators with substantial experience in environmental conflict resolution, and can help parties in selecting an appropriate neutral. (See [www.ecr.gov](http://www.ecr.gov) for more information about the Institute).