

**SITE SPECIFIC COMMUNICATION PLAN
FOR THE DECOMMISSIONING OF THE
WESTINGHOUSE ELECTRIC COMPANY, LLC. HEMATITE FACILITY
IN FESTUS MISSOURI**

December 2, 2002
LICENSE NUMBER SNM-00033
DOCKET NUMBER 07000036

SCOPE

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is responsible for regulatory oversight of licensees' decommissioning activities. Decommissioning involves safely removing a facility from service and reducing residual radioactivity to a level that permits the property to be released. This site-specific Communication Plan (CP) was developed for NRC interactions with Westinghouse Electric Company LLC (Westinghouse) regarding the decommissioning of their facilities in Festus, Missouri (License Number SNM-00033, Docket Number 07000036).

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Strategic Goal of Decommissioning

The strategic goal of the NRC's regulation of decommissioning activities is to provide reasonable assurance that the decommissioning of power reactors, material licensees, and fuel cycle facilities, and the management of radioactive waste from decommissioning do not adversely impact public health and safety or the environment. The NRC Strategic Plan (NUREG-1614, Vol. 2, Parts 1 and 2) identifies four outcome-based performance goals that support the Commission's strategic goal. These are:

- Maintain safety, protection of the environment, and the common defense and security.
- Increase public confidence.
- Make NRC activities and decisions more effective, efficient, and realistic.
- Reduce unnecessary regulatory burden on stakeholders.

Decommissioning Communication Goals

The goals of the NRC's decommissioning communication activities are to increase public confidence in the NRC's commitment and ability to carry out licensing and regulatory responsibilities for the decommissioning of nuclear facilities; and to increase the efficiency, effectiveness, and realism of analyses supporting license termination decisions. These will be achieved by the following efforts:

1. The NRC will make participation in the regulatory process more accessible to the public, listen to their concerns, and involve them more fully in the regulatory process.
2. The NRC will communicate more clearly. The NRC will add more focus, clarity, and consistency to its message, be timely, and present candid and factual information in the proper context with respect to the risk of regulated activities.

3. The NRC will continue to enhance its accountability and credibility by being a well-managed, independent regulatory agency. The NRC will increase efforts to share its accomplishments and errors with the public.
4. The NRC will continue to foster an environment where safety issues can be openly identified without fear of retribution.
5. The NRC will improve efficiency, effectiveness, and realism through the implementation of suggestions resulting from self-assessments and from other stakeholders.

Site-Specific Goals

The site-specific goals of the NRC's interactions with the licensee and interested stakeholders regarding the Hematite site are:

1. To ensure that the site will be decommissioned in accordance with the decommissioning criteria established in the NRC-approved decommissioning plan;
2. To ensure that in decommissioning this site, there is no adverse impact on public health and safety, or the environment;
3. To ensure that there is clear communication between the NRC, licensee, and other affected stakeholders;
4. To ensure that affected stakeholders are involved in the regulatory process for site decommissioning as well as termination of the license for the site; and
5. To increase public confidence in the decommissioning and license termination process for the Westinghouse/Hematite site.

HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

History

By application dated September 11, 2001, Westinghouse Electric Company notified the NRC that all principal activities, specifically those related to the manufacture of nuclear reactor fuel utilizing low-enriched uranium, at its Hematite, Missouri site had ceased. Westinghouse requested an amendment to Special Nuclear Material License SNM-33 to change the scope of licensed activities to those associated with decommissioning. On April 11, 2002, the NRC issued amendment No. 42 approving the licensee's request.

Background

The licensee requested a change to its authorized licensed activities by an application dated September 11, 2002. Specifically, the licensee requested the NRC to authorize:

1. Activities necessary to reduce the current inventory of special nuclear material, source material, and byproduct material at the site including such activities as:
 - a. Preparation, packaging, and shipment of the remaining inventory of special nuclear and source material;

- b. Waste preparation, packaging, and shipment; and
 - c. Equipment testing, clean-out, and decontamination in preparation for packaging and shipment.
2. Activities necessary to plan for the decommissioning of the site including, but not limited to, such activities as site characterization.
3. Activities necessary to maintain the facilities and site in a safe condition pending license termination including, but not limited to, such activities as:
 - a. Facility maintenance, inspection, testing, and preventive maintenance activities necessary to maintain safe conditions such as ventilation control and operation, alarm systems, process controls, building maintenance, etc., and
 - b. Process equipment maintenance.
4. Activities necessary to decommission the facilities and site including such activities as building surface decontamination.

The NRC staff determined that activities described above were authorized by the licensee's July 28, 1994, license renewal and that the activities are licensed by the Commission under Section 103 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, and are acceptable. However, the license was conditioned such that the licensee is not authorized to perform certain activities until the NRC approval of a decommissioning plan. Non-authorized activities include building demolition, soil and groundwater remediation, and final status surveys.

By letter dated June 7, 2000, the licensee requested an alternate schedule for submission of a decommissioning plan. By letter dated September 11, 2000, the NRC accepted the licensee's notification of its intent to cease principal activities and approved an alternate schedule for submission of a decommissioning plan. The decommissioning plan was to be submitted to the NRC by November 1, 2000. By letter dated October 30, 2000, the licensee proposed a schedule for submission of the Hematite Decommissioning Plan. This schedule anticipated cessation of principal activities on or about June 1, 2001. Based upon this schedule, the licensee anticipated submitting the final decommissioning plan to the NRC by April 2004. In License Amendment No. 39, issued May 30, 2001, the NRC accepted this proposed schedule.

The licensee has taken a pro-active role in communicating with the citizenry, local, state, and federal agencies. For example, the licensee developed a Community Communication Plan to facilitate implementation of its programs to involve, inform, and receive input from stakeholders. The plan calls for bi-monthly community information meetings. To date, the NRC has participated in an April 3, 2002 meeting and a July 11, 2002 meeting. During the April 2002 meeting, NRC representatives discussed the NRC's intent to issue Westinghouse License Amendment No. 42, which changes the scope of licensed activities to those associated with decommissioning. The NRC representatives also provided information on the decommissioning process. In addition, issues related to non-radiological hazardous chemicals were discussed. The July 2002 meeting focused on issues relating to non-radiological hazardous chemicals and their potential for impacting the site and adjoining ground-waters, as well as radiological contamination, specifically technetium-99, that had been previously identified in sampling wells on-site at the Hematite facility.

The meetings have been productive and well received. The April 3, 2002 meeting had approximately 300 attendees, and the July 11, 2002, meeting had approximately 50 attendees.

KEY MESSAGES

General

1. The NRC is an independent regulatory agency.
2. The NRC's most important mission is to protect public health and safety, and the environment.
3. In carrying out its mission, the NRC will act in a manner that fosters public confidence; is efficient, effective, and realistic; and focuses resources on regulatory actions that increase safety while reducing unnecessary regulatory burden on those it regulates and on the public it protects.
4. The NRC's regulations are developed through a public process which provides technically sound and realistic information for determining whether a proposed use of nuclear materials will protect public health and safety, and the environment.
5. The NRC's regulatory decisions with regard to decommissioning will be reached in a fair and public process, and will be based on an objective evaluation of the evidence.

Westinghouse/Hematite

1. The NRC will act to ensure that the Westinghouse/Hematite site is decommissioned in a manner that protects public health and safety, and the environment.
2. The NRC will not terminate Westinghouse/Hematite's license until the licensee has met the criteria in its NRC-approved decommissioning plan.
3. The NRC's regulatory decisions with regard to decommissioning will be reached in a fair and public process, and will be based on an objective evaluation of the evidence.

Public and the Media

1. The NRC will act to ensure that the Westinghouse site is decommissioned in a manner that protects public health and safety, and the environment.
2. The NRC will work in coordination with the licensee and any other affected/interested stakeholders to ensure that the NRC's regulatory decisions with regard to decommissioning the Westinghouse/Hematite site are reached in a fair and public process, and are based on an objective evaluation of the evidence.
3. The NRC will encourage public participation in its regulatory process.

AUDIENCE

Several stakeholders have been involved in the operation and decommissioning of the Westinghouse/Hematite site. These include: Westinghouse, Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), and local residents and public groups. The current contacts are:

Westinghouse Electric Company:

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Federal Contacts:

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Jefferson County Coordinator for:

Congressman Richard A. Gephardt
Missouri, Third District

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Public Contacts:

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Community Involvement Coordinator
3419 Kathleen
Festus, MO 63208

TOOLS

Several stakeholders have been identified in regard to decommissioning the Westinghouse/Hematite site. The NRC encourages their participation and will work to include them in the decommissioning process. The NRC will use the following tools to ensure high-quality communication with stakeholders:

Establish an NRC Point of Contact

- An NRC project manager has been assigned to the site. The project manager has the lead responsibility for communications with interested stakeholders as well as managing the technical and regulatory aspects of site decommissioning. The lead NRC project manager for the Westinghouse/Hematite site is:

George Michael McCann
Senior Radiation Specialist
Westinghouse/Hematite Decommissioning Project Manager
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- The project manager and other NRC staff associated with the site have a sound understanding of the NRC's regulatory philosophy and framework.
- The project manager and other NRC staff associated with the site have a sound understanding of the technical issues and stakeholders' concerns regarding decommissioning of the site.

Electronic Communication

- Except for proprietary, classified or other sensitive information, the project manager will place all correspondence pertaining to the site in the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS).

Written and Oral Communication

- Notification of significant licensing actions and an opportunity to comment will be provided in the Federal Register, and letters will be sent to the identified contacts for stakeholder groups.
- Meetings between the NRC and licensee are open for public observation. The meetings will be posted on the NRC's web site and a meeting notice issued at least two weeks prior to the planned meeting date.
- The project manager will provide interested stakeholders with information explaining the provisions of specific NRC regulations governing the decommissioning of nuclear facilities.

Discussions with Stakeholders

- The project manager will use telephone calls, letters, e-mails and other correspondence to respond to inquiries from interested stakeholders and/or to discuss activity status, decommissioning schedules, and associated regulatory technical issues.

Meetings with Stakeholders

- Meetings that are open to public observation will be held with the licensee and State of Missouri regulators, as needed, to discuss decommissioning regulatory and/or technical issues.
- Public meetings will be held, as needed, in Festus, Missouri, to discuss the status of decommissioning activities and to obtain stakeholders' feedback.
- Appropriately trained NRC staff or professionally-trained facilitators, will be used to support public meeting interactions with stakeholders, and to inspire trust that all points of view are welcome and will be considered.

Internal Communications

- The NRC project manager will keep NRC management informed of actions regarding the site through the use of briefings and distribution of correspondence.

- The NRC project manager will use e-mail, notes, briefings, and meetings to coordinate actions with other NRC groups as appropriate.

EVALUATION

Nuclear Regulatory Commission Form 659, "NRC Public Meeting Feedback" will be used to obtain feedback about the NRC's performance and identify areas for improvement. Continued use of this form will also enable the NRC to determine whether its efforts to better communicate with interested stakeholders is producing the desired results. Coverage by the local media will be monitored and analyzed in terms of fairness, balance, and accuracy.

The facilitator for the public meetings will be tasked to contact opinion leaders in the local community and solicit constructive comments on the format and content of the NRC's public interactions, as well as on possible topics for future meetings.

Findings resulting from this public outreach program will be reported in a number of ways, including the NMSS web page, Commission papers and briefings, as appropriate, the participation of NRC staff in conferences that address public confidence in radioactive waste management, and presentation of the results of the various evaluation tools in a brochure or handout at future meetings.

Questions regarding this communication plan should be provided to Mr. George M. McCann, the responsible NRC project manager for this decommissioning site.

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 *See previous concurrence

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