

January 10, 2005

Mr. Al Washko, Director
Department of Veterans Affairs
Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System
4101 Woolworth Avenue
Omaha, NE 68105-1873

SUBJECT: ISSUANCE OF FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE REGARDING
DECOMMISSIONING AMENDMENT AND SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS
(TAC NO. MC5156)

Dear Mr. Washko:

Enclosed for your information is a "Notice and Solicitation of Comments Pursuant to 10 CFR 20.1405 and 10 CFR 50.82(b)(5) Concerning Proposed Action to Decommission the Department of Veterans Affairs, Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System, Alan J. Blotcky Reactor Facility" concerning your application for approval of your decommissioning plan dated September 21, 2004. In accordance with the regulations, this notice is also being sent to the Office of the Federal Register and other forums for publication. If you have any questions please contact me at 301-415-1127.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Alexander Adams, Jr., Senior Project Manager
Research and Test Reactors Section
New, Research and Test Reactors Program
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-131

Enclosure: Notice and Solicitation of Comments

cc: w/encl: See next page

Veterans Administration
Medical Center

Docket No. 50-131

cc:

Mayor
City of Omaha
Omaha, NE 68102

Julia Schmitt, Program Manager
Department of Health and Human Services
P.O. Box 95007
Lincoln, NE 68509-5007

M. Brenda Hebert (12C1)
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

Test, Research, and Training
Reactor Newsletter
University of Florida
202 Nuclear Sciences Center
Gainesville, FL 32611

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TEMPLATE NO.: NRR-106

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

NOTICE AND SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS

PURSUANT TO 10 CFR 20.1405 AND 10 CFR 50.82(b)(5) CONCERNING

PROPOSED ACTION TO DECOMMISSION

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

NEBRASKA-WESTERN IOWA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

ALAN J. BLOTCKY REACTOR FACILITY

DOCKET NO. 50-131

Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has received an application from the Department of Veterans Affairs, Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System dated September 21, 2004, for a license amendment approving its proposed decommissioning plan for the Alan J. Blotcky Reactor Facility (Facility License No. R-57) located in Omaha, Nebraska.

In accordance with 10 CFR 20.1405, the Commission is providing notice and soliciting comments from local and State governments in the vicinity of the site and any Indian Nation or other indigenous people that have treaty or statutory rights that could be affected by the decommissioning. This notice and solicitation of comments is published pursuant to 10 CFR 20.1405, which provides for publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER and in a forum, such as local newspapers, letters to State or local organizations, or other appropriate forum, that is readily accessible to individuals in the vicinity of the site.

Comments should be provided within 30 days of the date of this notice to Patrick M. Madden, Chief, Research and Test Reactors Section, New, Research and Test Reactors Program, Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs, Mail Stop O12-G13, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555.

Further, in accordance with 10 CFR 50.82(b)(5), notice is also provided to interested persons of the Commission's intent to approve the plan by amendment, subject to such conditions and limitations as it deems appropriate and necessary, if the plan demonstrates that decommissioning will be performed in accordance with the regulations in this chapter and will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

A copy of the application (Accession Number ML042740512) is available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC web site at (the Public Electronic Reading Room) <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 10th day of January 2005.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

/RA/

Patrick M. Madden, Section Chief
Research and Test Reactors Section
New, Research and Test Reactors Program
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation