



NRC NEWS

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Office of Public Affairs Telephone: 301/415-8200

Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

E-mail: opa@nrc.gov

Site: <http://www.nrc.gov>

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NRC ACCEPTS FOR TECHNICAL REVIEW PHASE 1 OF DOE'S DECOMMISSIONING PLAN FOR WEST VALLEY

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has accepted for review the Department of Energy's Phase 1 decommissioning plan for the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) site in western New York state.

The DOE plan was submitted on Dec 3, 2008, and was subsequently revised on March 16 to include additional technical information. The NRC staff has completed its initial review and has determined that the plan, as revised, contains sufficient information to warrant a technical review. This determination does not indicate NRC approval of the plan, nor does it preclude additional requests for information from NRC to DOE.

The West Valley site is located on 3,300 acres of land known as the Western New York Nuclear Service Center. The WVDP site, which is a 200-acre portion of the center, contains a former commercial nuclear fuel reprocessing facility that operated from 1966 to 1972, and produced approximately 600,000 gallons of liquid high-level radioactive waste. The WVDP also contains contaminated structures and a radioactive waste disposal area. The WVDP also includes a waste tank farm, waste lagoons, and above-ground radioactive waste storage areas, with soil and groundwater contamination near these facilities.

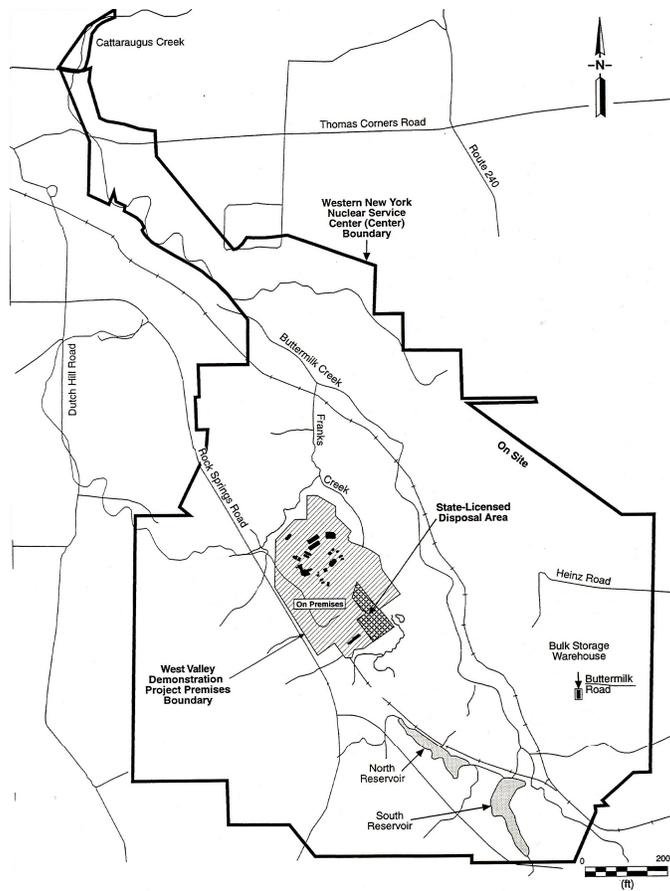
DOE's Phase 1 decommissioning plan envisions remediation activities within the WVDP boundary, including removal of the Main Plant Process Building, the Vitrification Facility, source area of the North Plateau Groundwater Plume, wastewater treatment facility lagoons, and ancillary buildings, foundations, slabs and pads.

Through the West Valley Demonstration Project Act of 1980, Congress gave NRC authority to review and consult with DOE informally on certain matters related to the project. In a subsequent memorandum of understanding, the two agencies agreed that NRC would review and comment upon DOE's decommissioning plan, and that DOE would provide responses to NRC's comments before initiating Phase 1 decommissioning activities.

Phase 2 decommissioning of the remainder of the WVDP and center, or its long-term management, will be determined in the future and are not part of this decommissioning plan.

A copy of the DOE's decommissioning plan, the revised plan and the NRC's letter of application acceptance to DOE are available in the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management Systems (ADAMS) under accession number ML083659423, ML090771108 and ML090780848 respectively. ADAMS is accessible via the agency's web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. Help in using ADAMS is available by contacting the NRC's Public Document Room at 1-800-397-4209 or 301-415-4737, or by e-mail at PDR.Resource@nrc.gov.

Western New York Nuclear Service Center



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