

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

DOCKET NO.: 040-08948

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission

ACTION: NOTICE OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT  
STATEMENT FOR SHIELDALLOY METALLURGICAL CORPORATION'S FACILITY IN  
CAMBRIDGE, OHIO

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued for public comment a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) related to the decommissioning of the Shieldalloy Metallurgical Corporation's facility in Cambridge, Ohio. The DEIS reviews and evaluates the licensee's proposed alternative of stabilizing in place two slag piles containing radioactive and chemical waste, and several other alternatives to this action, including disposal of all of the slag offsite at a licensed disposal facility. Shortly after the DEIS was made available to the public for review, NRC received a request from Mr. Sherwood Bauman, Chairperson of the Save the Wills Creek Water Resources Committee, a local environmental group in the Cambridge, Ohio area, to consider another alternative. The purpose of this notice is to describe the proposed alternative, and to request public comments on it.

**ADDRESSES FOR THE DEIS:** A single copy of the DEIS (NUREG-1543) may be requested by those considering public comment by writing to the NRC Publications Section, ATTN.: Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, P.O. Box 37082, Washington, D.C. 20013-7082, or by calling 202-512-1800. A copy of the DEIS is available for inspection and/or copying in the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001. A copy is also available for public inspection at the Guernsey County District Library, 800 Steubenville Avenue, Cambridge, Ohio 43725-2385.

**DATE AND ADDRESS FOR PUBLIC MEETING:** A public meeting will be held on September 16, 1996, from 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m., at the Pritchard Laughlin Civic Center, located at 7033 Glenn Highway, Cambridge, Ohio 43725. Telephone 614/439-7009. The NRC staff and contractors will be available to go over information in the DEIS and for this new alternative, to answer questions related to information presented in the DEIS and on this notice for the new alternative, and to receive comments to be considered in developing the final

environmental impact statement.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Mark Thaggard, Low-Level Waste and Decommissioning Projects Branch, Mail Stop T7D-13, Division of Waste Management, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001. Telephone 301/415-6718.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

The NRC has prepared a DEIS that evaluates the potential environmental impacts and alternatives associated with SMC's proposed approach to decommissioning two radiologically contaminated waste piles. NRC noticed the availability of the DEIS for public comment on July 25, 1996 (61 FR 38789). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency noticed availability of the DEIS on August 2, 1996 (61 FR 40414). NRC's notice of availability stated that the public comment period of the DEIS would extend 90 days from the date of EPA's notice. Consequently, the comment period on the DEIS will expire October 31, 1996.

Shieldalloy proposes to cap and stabilize the piles in place and implement appropriate land-use restrictions. The DEIS also describes and evaluates alternatives to the proposed action. Based on the evaluations in the DEIS, without consideration of this new alternative, the NRC staff's preliminary conclusion is that the environmental impacts of SMC's proposal are not significant, if certain mitigative measures are carried out, and there is no obviously superior alternative.

NRC recently received a request from Mr. Sherwood Bauman, Chairperson of the Save the Wills Creek Water Resources Committee, a local environmental group in the Cambridge, Ohio area, to consider another alternative for remediating the site. The alternative was provided in response to the DEIS and could simply be considered by NRC in its resolution of all of the public comments that are to be submitted by October 31, 1996. However, because it was provided very early in the comment period by the Save the Wills Creek Water Resources Committee, a local group that has had extensive involvement in monitoring the

remediation of this site. NRC staff is describing the alternative in this notice, and soliciting public comments on it. The staff will consider these comments and evaluate them fully along with the alternative in the final EIS, as well as comments received on it in a public meeting on the DEIS to be held September 16, 1996, in Cambridge, Ohio.

#### Description of Alternative Proposed by Save the Wills Creek Water Resources Committee:

Generally, the alternative is a hybrid of two alternatives in the DEIS-- stabilization in place and offsite disposal. However, instead of both slag piles being treated the same way (either stabilized in place or disposed of at a facility in Utah), this hybrid alternative proposes to remove the East Slag pile for offsite disposal and leave the West Slag pile onsite.

The alternative is described as follows by the Save the Wills Creek Water Resources Committee in its letter to NRC:

"Most of the serious problems and elevated radioactive materials are situated in the East Slag pile. In fact, it is the East slag pile and its material that may eventually exceed the National Safe Drinking Water Standards.

"The East Slag represents approximately ten percent of the volume (by weight) of the total contaminated materials on site, while representing approximately 60 percent of the actual licensed materials at said facility. Said pile also contains almost all of the slag that seriously exceeds the NRC general release criteria" [for unrestricted use].

"We therefore submit, that serious consideration be given to yet another alternative which is the full removal to a licensed storage facility the entire East Slag pile while capping on site the west slag pile. This option would see the costs of capping the West Slag pile remaining constant, while the cost of removing the most serious area of contaminated slag would carry a total cost of approximately 8.5 Million dollars to dispose of the East Slag Pile at Envirocare in Utah, and cap as planned the West Slag Pile." [Note--the Save the Wills Creek Water Resources Committee has since estimated the total

cost of offsite disposal of the East Pile and onsite stabilization of the West Pile to be \$15 million and will be providing a documented basis for that figure by the time of the public meeting].

"This is a) our organizations best estimates, and not a firm price, and b) does not include the return to the site of off site slag. In fact, our organization feels that the off site slag is the "legal" responsibility of Cypress Foote, and that said slag should not be allowed to be returned to the facility.

"This estimate would mean our community receives a much better remediation at a price only 2.5 times as high as the current estimates for full insitu disposal on site of all on and off site contaminants."

The author of the alternative is gathering additional information and expects to provide this by the time of the public meeting in Cambridge, Ohio, on September 16, 1996. Interested persons may contact Mr. Mark Thaggard of the NRC staff for the latest documentation on this alternative, or obtain this documentation at the public meeting on September 16, 1996.

The staff has not conducted an analysis of this alternative at this time and has presented the alternative in this notice as it was received. As noted earlier, the staff will evaluate this alternative in the final EIS, considering: (1) the comments received from the public; (2) existing information, as appropriate in the DEIS; and (3) any pertinent new data that is obtained. For example, the estimated cost for removing the East Pile and disposing of it offsite is \$17,332,900, as reported in Table 5.1-7 of the DEIS. The Save the Wills Creek Water Resources Committee believes that this figure is high and will be providing a basis for a lower figure. The staff also notes that the National Environmental Policy Act requires consideration of all environmental impacts that could result from NRC action, not just the radiation impacts. The alternative proposal appears to consider only radiation impacts from the material identified in the alternative. Consistent

with the requirements of NEPA and the existing scope of the EIS, the staff will assess the environmental impacts from all contamination in the final EIS.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 16<sup>th</sup> day of August 1996.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R. A. Nelson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert A. Nelson, Acting Chief  
Low-Level Waste and Decommissioning  
Projects Branch  
Division of Waste Management  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards