



National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration

**Glenn Research Center**

**DECOMMISSIONING PLAN  
FOR THE PLUM BROOK REACTOR FACILITY**

**Revision 0**

**December 1999**

# DECOMMISSIONING PLAN FOR THE PLUM BROOK REACTOR FACILITY

Revision 0

December 1999

Prepared by



An Employee-Owned Company

Science Applications International Corporation  
1251 Roger Bacon Drive  
Reston, Virginia 22090

 **Stone & Webster**

Stone & Webster  
245 Summer Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02210

through



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**

under

Contract No. DACA 27-97-D-0025  
Task Order 6

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	SUMMARY OF PLAN .....	1-1
1.1	Introduction.....	1-1
1.2	Background.....	1-1
1.2.1	Reactor Decommissioning Overview.....	1-22
1.2.2	Estimated Costs.....	1-23
1.2.3	Availability of Funds.....	1-23
1.2.4	Program Quality Assurance.....	1-24
1.2.4.1	Quality Assurance .....	1-24
1.2.4.2	Quality Control.....	1-25
1.2.4.3	Audits and Assessments .....	1-25
2.	DECOMMISSIONING ACTIVITIES .....	2-1
2.1	Decommissioning Alternative .....	2-1
2.2	Facility Radiological Status.....	2-1
2.2.1	Facility Operating History.....	2-2
2.2.2	Current Radiological Status of the Facility .....	2-4
2.2.2.1	Radiological Characterization of the PBRF.....	2-4
2.2.2.2	Major Facilities at the PBRF.....	2-7
2.2.2.3	Support Facilities at the PBRF.....	2-11
2.2.2.4	Environmental Contamination at the PBRF .....	2-13
2.2.2.5	Non-Radiological Waste Characterization of the PBRF .....	2-17
2.2.3	Release Criteria.....	2-17
2.2.3.1	Derived Concentration Guidelines.....	2-18
2.2.3.2	ALARA Analysis Methodology .....	2-32
2.3	Decommissioning Tasks.....	2-35
2.3.1	Activities and Tasks .....	2-36
2.3.1.1	Planning Activities .....	2-37
2.3.1.2	Preparing for Decommissioning Activities.....	2-39
2.3.1.3	Decontamination and Dismantling Tasks.....	2-40
2.3.1.4	Safety Hazards During Decommissioning Activities.....	2-53
2.3.2	Schedule.....	2-53
2.4	Decommissioning Organization and Responsibilities.....	2-59
2.4.1	Decommissioning Team.....	2-59
2.4.1.1	Key Positions in NASA Organization.....	2-60
2.4.1.2	Key Positions in Decommissioning Technical Support Team (Contractor).....	2-64
2.4.2	Decommissioning Safety Committee (NASA).....	2-67

## TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

2.5	Training Program.....	2-68
2.6	Contractor Assistance.....	2-70
2.6.1	Decommissioning Contractor Project Manager.....	2-71
2.6.2	Decommissioning Contractor Project Engineer.....	2-72
2.6.3	Decommissioning Contractor Safety and Health Supervisor.....	2-72
2.6.4	Decommissioning Contractor Health Physics Supervisor.....	2-73
2.6.5	Decommissioning Contractor Site Supervisor.....	2-74
2.7	Decontamination and Decommissioning Documents and Guides.....	2-74
3.	PROTECTION OF THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF RADIATION WORKERS AND THE PUBLIC.....	3-1
3.1	Radiation Protection.....	3-1
3.1.1	Ensuring ALARA Radiation Exposures.....	3-1
3.1.2	Health Physics Program.....	3-2
3.1.2.1	Dose Limits.....	3-2
3.1.2.2	Personnel Monitoring.....	3-3
3.1.2.3	Exposure Control.....	3-4
3.1.2.4	Radiation Monitoring Equipment.....	3-6
3.1.2.5	Station and Environmental Monitoring.....	3-7
3.1.2.6	Records and Reports.....	3-8
3.1.3	Dose Estimates.....	3-8
3.2	Radioactive Waste Management.....	3-9
3.2.1	Fuel Removal.....	3-10
3.2.2	Radioactive Waste Processing.....	3-12
3.2.2.1	Waste Characterization.....	3-14
3.2.2.2	Waste Packaging and Transport.....	3-15
3.2.3	Radioactive Waste Disposal.....	3-15
3.2.3.1	Radioactive Material Shipment Manifest.....	3-15
3.2.3.2	Waste Minimization.....	3-15
3.2.4	General Industrial Safety Program.....	3-17
3.2.4.1	Occupational Health and Environmental Control.....	3-18
3.2.4.2	Personal Protective Devices.....	3-18
3.2.4.3	Hearing Conservation Program.....	3-19
3.2.4.4	Respiratory Protection Program.....	3-19
3.2.4.5	Fire Protection and Prevention.....	3-19
3.2.4.6	Hand and Power Tools and Cutting Equipment.....	3-20
3.2.4.7	Fall Protection.....	3-20
3.2.4.8	Lifting Equipment.....	3-20
3.2.4.9	Excavations.....	3-20

## TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

3.2.4.10	Working in Confined Space Areas.....	3-20
3.2.4.11	Lockout/Tagout.....	3-20
3.2.4.12	Asbestos Removal.....	3-20
3.2.4.13	Lead Paint Removal.....	3-21
3.2.4.14	Demolition.....	3-21
3.3	Radiological Accident Analyses.....	3-21
3.3.1	Potential Radiological Accidents.....	3-21
3.3.1.1	Highest Radionuclide Inventories at the PBRF.....	3-22
3.3.1.2	Potential Accident Scenarios.....	3-22
3.3.2	Evaluation of Public Impact from Accident Scenarios.....	3-23
3.3.2.1	Assumptions.....	3-23
3.3.2.2	Methodology for Calculating Total Effective Dose Equivalent.....	3-24
3.3.2.3	Scenario 1: Cutting Reactor Tank Internal Components with a Plasma Torch Releases Activation Products.....	3-25
3.3.2.4	Scenario 2: Cutting a Beryllium Component in the Reactor Tank with a Plasma Torch Releases Tritium.....	3-27
3.3.2.5	Scenario 3: Dropping a Component Stored in the Hot Dry Storage Area.....	3-28
3.3.2.6	Scenario 4: Dropping a 55-Gallon Drum of Contaminated Concrete Dust Generated from the Biological Shield or Hot Cells.....	3-28
3.3.2.7	Scenario 5: Contaminated Soil Released from the Emergency Retention Basin.....	3-28
3.3.2.8	Scenario 6: Fire Involving Dry Solid Waste.....	3-29
3.3.3	Evaluation of Worker Exposure from Accident Scenarios.....	3-29
3.3.4	Conclusions.....	3-30
4.	PROPOSED FINAL STATUS SURVEY PLAN.....	4-1
4.1	The Data Quality Objectives Process.....	4-2
4.1.1	Step 1: Stating the Problem.....	4-2
4.1.2	Step 2: Identifying the Decision.....	4-3
4.1.3	Step 3: Identifying Inputs to the Decision.....	4-4
4.1.3.1	Derived Concentration Guidelines.....	4-4
4.1.3.2	Measurement of Radionuclide Concentrations.....	4-4
4.1.4	Step 4: Defining Study Boundaries.....	4-7
4.1.4.1	Spatial Boundaries.....	4-7
4.1.4.2	Temporal Boundaries.....	4-8
4.1.4.3	Reference Coordinates.....	4-8
4.1.4.4	Sampling Grids.....	4-8
4.1.5	Step 5: Developing a Decision Rule.....	4-8

## TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

4.1.5.1	The Statistical Test .....	4-10
4.1.5.2	Elevated Measurement Comparison.....	4-10
4.1.6	Step 6: Specifying Limits on Decision Errors .....	4-11
4.1.6.1	Measurement Technique Detection Capabilities .....	4-11
4.1.6.2	Type I and Type II Errors .....	4-11
4.1.6.3	The Gray Region .....	4-11
4.1.7	Step 7: Optimizing the Design.....	4-11
4.2	Documentation of the Final Status Survey Plan .....	4-12
5.	TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS.....	5-1
6.	PHYSICAL SECURITY PLAN .....	6-1
7.	EMERGENCY PLAN .....	7-1
8.	ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT .....	8-1
8.1	Purpose and Need for Action.....	8-1
8.2	Facility Description.....	8-1
8.3	Proposed Action and Alternatives.....	8-5
8.4	Description of the Affected Environment .....	8-5
8.4.1	Topography, Geology, Soils, and Seismicity .....	8-5
8.4.1.1	Topography .....	8-5
8.4.1.2	Geology.....	8-6
8.4.1.3	Soils .....	8-6
8.4.1.4	Seismicity.....	8-6
8.4.2	Climate and Air Quality .....	8-6
8.4.3	Hydrology.....	8-7
8.4.3.1	Groundwater .....	8-7
8.4.3.2	Surface Water.....	8-7
8.4.4	Biologic Resources.....	8-8
8.4.4.1	Vegetation.....	8-8
8.4.4.2	Wildlife.....	8-8
8.4.5	Population and Land Use.....	8-9
8.4.6	Cultural and Historical Resources.....	8-10
8.4.7	Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice.....	8-10
8.4.8	Transportation .....	8-10
8.4.9	Noise.....	8-10
8.4.10	Background Radiation Levels.....	8-10

## TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

8.5	Environmental Impacts of Proposed Action and Alternatives .....	8-11
8.5.1	Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action .....	8-11
8.5.1.1	Human Health Effects .....	8-11
8.5.1.2	Environmental Impacts.....	8-13
8.5.1.3	Cumulative Effects.....	8-14
8.5.2	Environmental Impacts of Alternatives.....	8-14
8.5.2.1	Safe Storage.....	8-14
8.5.2.2	Entombment.....	8-15
9.	CHANGES TO THE DECOMMISSIONING PLAN.....	9-1
10.	REFERENCES.....	10-1

## LIST OF APPENDICES

APPENDIX A	1998 CONFIRMATORY CHARACTERIZATION SURVEY FOR THE PLUM BROOK REACTOR FACILITY
APPENDIX B	DERIVATION OF $\Pi/Q$
APPENDIX C	SAMPLE ALARA CALCULATION FOR THE EMERGENCY RETENTION BASIN
APPENDIX D	ESTIMATED COST FOR DECOMMISSIONING THE PBRF

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1-1.	Location of the Plum Brook Reactor Facility at Plum Brook Station .....	1-2
Figure 1-2.	Plot Plan of Plum Brook Reactor Facility.....	1-4
Figure 1-3.	Elevation View of Reactor Building (1111) .....	1-6
Figure 1-4.	Plan View of Reactor Building (1111) .....	1-7
Figure 1-5.	Cut-away View of Reactor Tank and Biological Shield.....	1-8
Figure 1-6.	Horizontal Cross Section of Concrete Biological Shield and Reactor Core.....	1-9
Figure 1-7.	Horizontal Cross Section of Reactor Core .....	1-10
Figure 1-8.	Plan View of Hot Laboratory (1112).....	1-12
Figure 1-9.	Elevation View (Section B-B') at Hot Laboratory (1112) .....	1-13
Figure 1-10.	Plan View of Reactor Office and Laboratory Building (1141).....	1-15
Figure 1-11.	Plan View of Primary Pump House (1134).....	1-16
Figure 1-12.	Plan View of Fan House (1132) .....	1-17
Figure 1-13.	Plan View of Waste Handling Building (1133) .....	1-18
Figure 2-1.	Time Dependence of Dose for Residual Contamination in Surface Soil Producing a Maximum Annual Dose of 25 mrem/yr .....	2-26
Figure 2-2.	Time Dependence of Dose for Residual Contamination on Building Surfaces Producing a Maximum Annual Dose of 25 mrem/yr .....	2-29
Figure 2-3.	Time Dependence of Dose for Residual Contamination in Subsurface Structures Producing a Maximum Annual Dose of 25 mrem/yr .....	2-32
Figure 2-4.	Decommissioning Activity Schedule.....	2-57
Figure 2-5.	Organizational Structure for the Plum Brook Reactor Facility Decommissioning Project .....	2-60
Figure 2-6.	Contractor Technical Support .....	2-65
Figure 2-7.	Decommissioning Contractor Organization.....	2-71
Figure 4-1.	Evolution of the Final Status Survey Plan .....	4-1
Figure 4-2.	The Data Quality Objectives Process (adapted from Figure D.1 of NUREG-1575 [USEPA et al. 1997]).....	4-2
Figure 8-1.	Location of the Plum Brook Reactor Facility at Plum Brook Station (modified from NASA 1980a).....	8-2
Figure 8-2.	Plot Plan of Plum Brook Reactor Facility (modified from NASA 1980b).....	8-4

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 1-1.	Facilities and Areas Composing the PBRF.....	1-3
Table 2-1.	Estimated Inventory in the Reactor Tank and Internal Components.....	2-8
Table 2-2.	Estimated Radionuclide Inventory of the Waste in the Hot Dry Storage Area.....	2-11
Table 2-3.	Summary of Survey Results for Support Facilities at the PBRF.....	2-12
Table 2-4.	Summary of Survey Results for the Water Effluent Monitoring Station (1192).....	2-15
Table 2-5.	Types of Residual Contamination at the PBRF.....	2-18
Table 2-6.	Radionuclides of Concern for the PBRF.....	2-19
Table 2-7.	Residential Farmer Scenario: Contaminated Zone Parameters.....	2-22
Table 2-8.	Resident Farmer Scenario: Cover and Contaminated Zone Hydrologic Data.....	2-23
Table 2-9.	Residential Farmer Scenario: Saturated Zone Hydrologic Data.....	2-23
Table 2-10.	Residential Farmer Scenario: Uncontaminated and Unsaturated Zone Hydrologic Data.....	2-24
Table 2-11.	Residential Farmer Scenario: Distribution Coefficients.....	2-24
Table 2-12.	Residential Farmer Scenario: Dust Inhalation and External Gamma Parameters.....	2-24
Table 2-13.	Residential Farmer Scenario: Ingestion Pathway, Data Dietary Parameters.....	2-25
Table 2-14.	Residential Farmer Scenario: Ingestion Pathway Data, Nondietary Parameters.....	2-25
Table 2-15.	DCGLs for Surface Soils.....	2-25
Table 2-16.	Building Reuse Scenario: Parameter Values.....	2-27
Table 2-17.	DCGLs for Buildings Remaining after License Termination.....	2-28
Table 2-18.	DCGLs for Subsurface Structures within 3 Meters (10 feet) of the Surface.....	2-30
Table 2-19.	DCGLs for Subsurface Structures Greater than 3 Meters (10 Feet) Below the Surface.....	2-31
Table 2-20.	Summary of Preliminary ALARA Analysis Results for Selected Decontamination and Offsite Disposal Actions.....	2-35
Table 2-21.	Activities and Tasks for Decommissioning the NASA Plum Brook Reactor Facility.....	2-38
Table 2-22.	Radiological and Industrial Safety Hazards Expected During PBRF Decommissioning Activities.....	2-54

## LIST OF TABLES (Continued)

Table 3-1.	Radiation Monitoring Equipment Calibration Frequency.....	3-6
Table 3-2.	Estimated Worker Doses From Decommissioning the NASA Plum Brook Reactor Facility.....	3-10
Table 3-3.	Summary of Radioactive Waste Volumes, Packaging, Transportation, and Disposition.....	3-11
Table 3-4.	Values used to Calculate TEDE for Scenario 1: Cutting Reactor Tank Internal Components with a Plasma Torch .....	3-26
Table 3-5.	Values Used to Calculate TEDE for Scenario 5: Contaminated Soil Released from the Emergency Retention Basin .....	3-29
Table 4-1.	Survey Instrumentation .....	4-6
Table 4-2.	Area Classification.....	4-9
Table 8-1.	Plum Brook Station Testing Facilities .....	8-3
Table 8-2.	Special Status Animals and Plants Residing at the Plum Brook Station .....	8-9

## LIST OF ACRONYMS

ALARA	as low as reasonably achievable
AMCG	average member of the critical group
CEDE	committed effective dose equivalent
DCGL	derived concentration guideline
DOE	U.S. Department of Energy
DQO	Data Quality Objective
HEPA	high-efficiency particulate air (filter)
LBGR	Lower Boundary of the Gray Region
MDA	minimum detectable activity
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRC	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
PAG	Protective Action Guideline
PBRF	Plum Brook Reactor Facility
PCB	polychlorinated biphenyl
QA	quality assurance
QC	quality control
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
TEDE	total effective dose equivalent
TLD	thermoluminescent dosimeter
TSCA	Toxic Substances Control Act
U.S. EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
WEN	Work Element Number

# 1. SUMMARY OF PLAN

## 1.1 Introduction

This decommissioning plan describes the decontamination and dismantlement of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA's) Plum Brook Reactor Facility (PBRF). The PBRF consists of a complex of buildings and includes two reactors. The PBRF is located within a fenced area in the northern portion of NASA's Plum Brook Station (Figure 1-1). The Plum Brook Station is located about 6 km (4 mi) south of Sandusky, Ohio, about midway between Cleveland and Toledo, south of Lake Erie, and just north of the Ohio Turnpike.

The PBRF operated from 1961 to 1973. NASA currently has two 10 CFR Part 50 facility licenses to "possess but not operate" two reactors within the Reactor Building (Building 1111) at the PBRF. U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) license TR-3 is for the 60-megawatt research test reactor, constructed for testing materials to be used in space program applications. NRC license R-93 is for the 100-kilowatt swimming-pool type mock-up reactor. NASA previously terminated a material license for operating the Hot Laboratory (Building 1112). NASA has decided that the PBRF should be decommissioned, remaining radioactive structures and materials disposed of, and the remaining NRC licenses terminated. The objective of decontamination and decommissioning will be to terminate the licenses and allow release of the 11-ha (27-acre) PBRF area for unrestricted use. The radiological criteria for license termination to allow unrestricted use will meet the requirements set forth in 10 CFR Part 20, Subpart E, "Radiological Criteria for License Termination," and will follow the NRC guidance in Draft Regulatory Guide DG-4006, *Demonstrating Compliance with the Radiological Criteria for License Termination* (NRC 1998a).

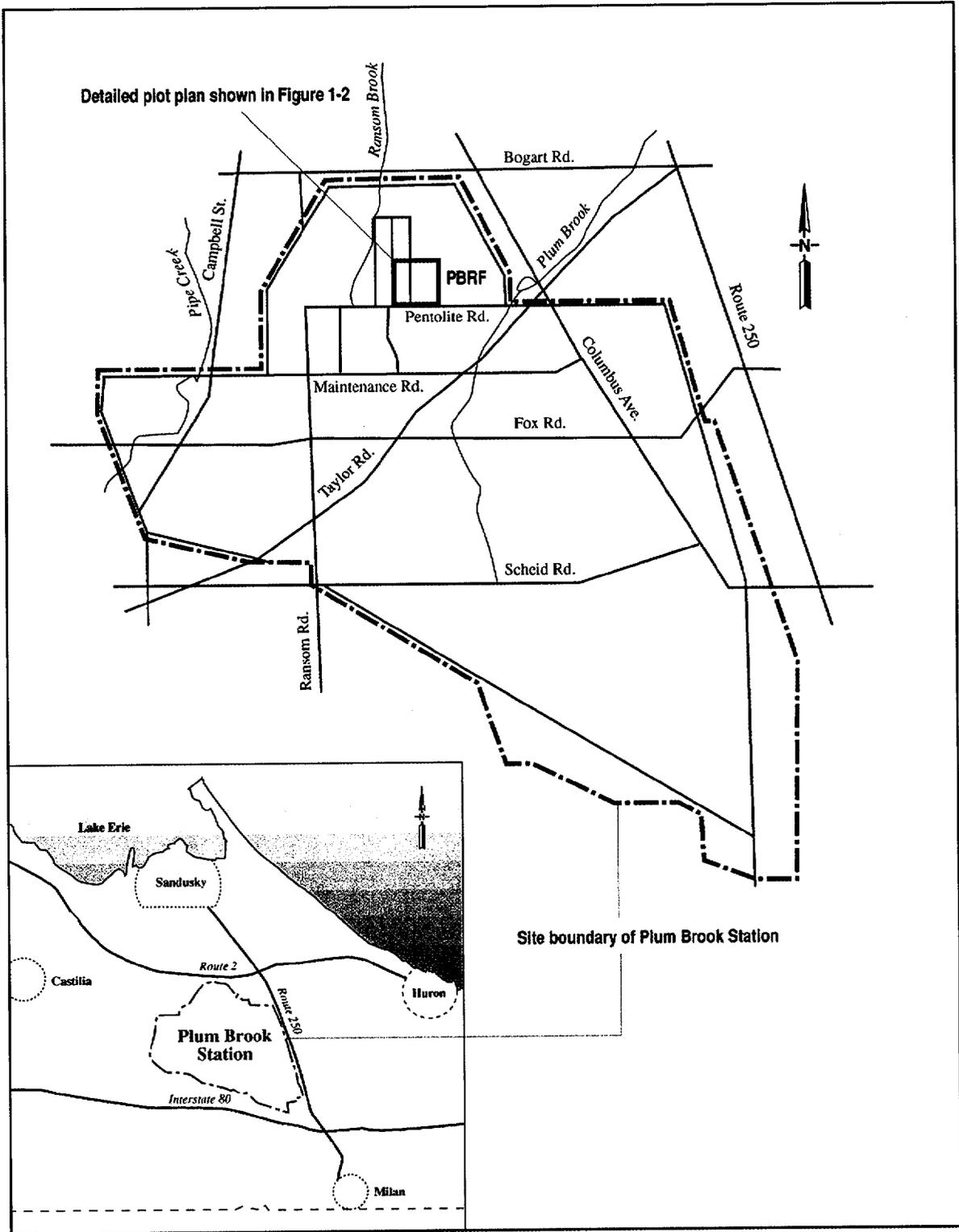
This decommissioning plan has been written using the guidance and format specified in Chapter 17 of *Guidelines for Preparing and Reviewing Applications for the Licensing of Non-Power Reactors* (NUREG-1537) (NRC 1996).

## 1.2 Background

The Plum Brook Station is surrounded by farmlands and low density housing. Approximately 2185 ha (5400 acres) of the Plum Brook Station are enclosed within a 2.1-m (7-ft) high security fence. In addition, individual security fences surround several of the existing facilities and test sites within Plum Brook Station, including the PBRF.

The PBRF consists of a complex of buildings within an 11-ha (27-acre) fenced area in the northern portion of the 2590-ha (6400)-acre Plum Brook Station (Figure 1-1). The purpose of the PBRF was to perform irradiation testing of fueled and unfueled experiments for space program application. The PBRF includes

- The Reactor Building, which contains a 60-megawatt materials test reactor and a 100-kilowatt swimming-pool type mock-up reactor, both of which have been shut down and defueled.
- A seven-cell Hot Laboratory complex.



1480D-1

**Figure 1-1. Location of the Plum Brook Reactor Facility at Plum Brook Station (modified from NASA 1980a)**

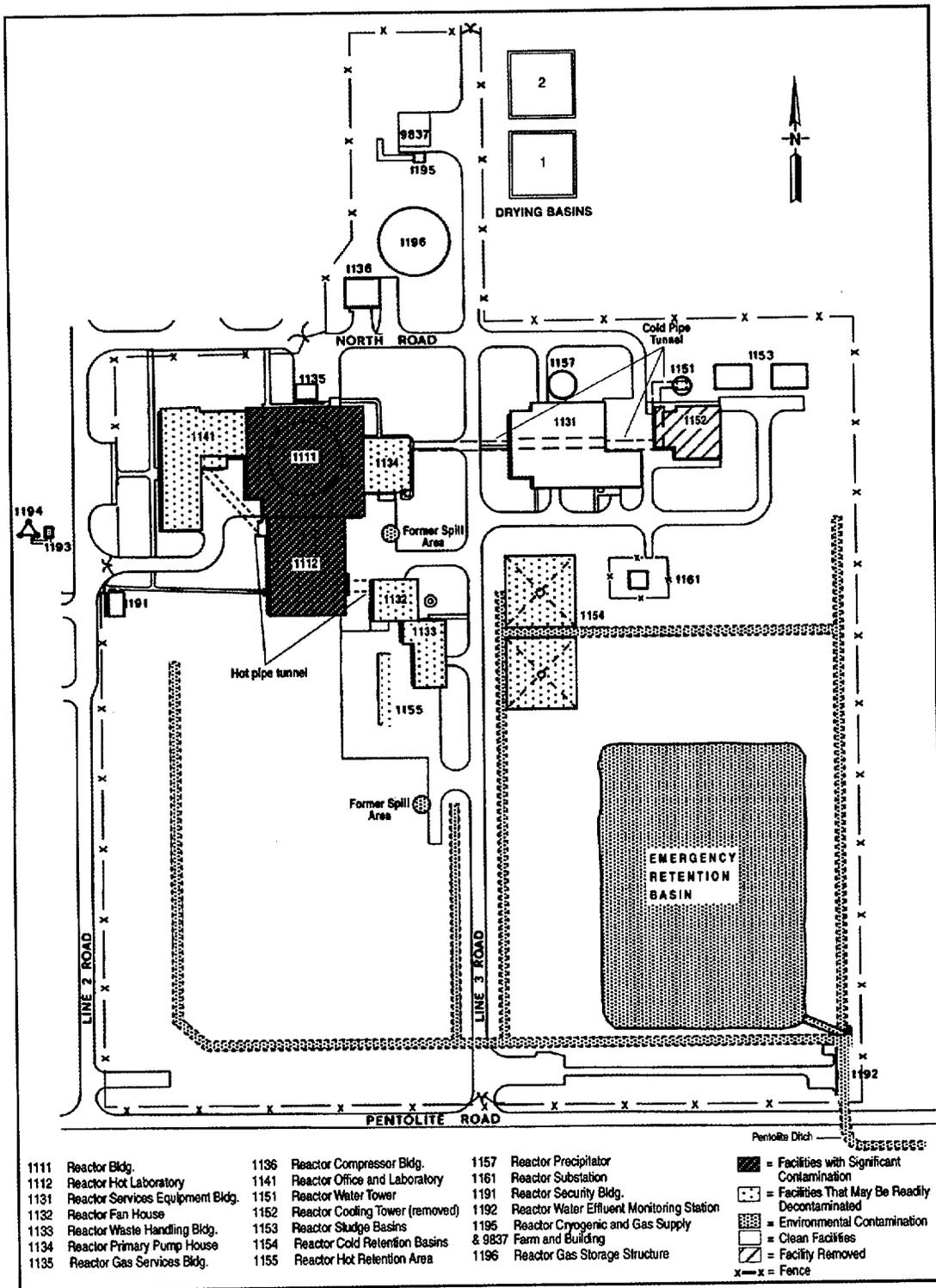
- Reactor and laboratory operations support facilities, which include the Reactor Office and Laboratory Building (Building 1141), the Primary Pump House (Building 1134), the Fan House (Building 1132), the Waste Handling Building (Building 1133), the Hot Retention Area (1155), the Cold Retention Basins (1154), and a hot pipe tunnel.
- Areas of environmental contamination, which include either (a) inground or earthen structures or (b) soil that was contaminated as a result of past operations (e.g., spills). These areas are the Emergency Retention Basin, a drainage system, the Water Effluent Monitoring Station (Building 1192), the Pentolite Ditch, and two known past spill areas.
- General support facilities, which include the Reactor Services Equipment Building (Building 1131).

Table 1-1 identifies the major facilities (all are radiologically contaminated), areas of environmental contamination outside of buildings, and support facilities (both contaminated and uncontaminated). Figure 1-2 is a plot plan of the PBRF showing the facilities that compose it.

**Table 1-1. Facilities and Areas Composing the PBRF\***

Major Facilities	Environmental Contamination	Support Facilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reactor Building (1111)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Reactor tank and internal components</li> <li>– Reactor primary cooling water system and primary cooling shutdown system</li> <li>– Reactor biological shield</li> <li>– Reactor quadrants and canals and pump-out, recirculation, and drain systems</li> <li>– Reactor building rooms</li> <li>– Hot drains, sumps, pumps, and valves</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Hot Laboratory (1112)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Hot Dry Storage Area</li> <li>– Hot cells</li> <li>– Rooms</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency Retention Basin</li> <li>• Drainage System</li> <li>• Water Effluent Monitoring Station (1192)</li> <li>• Pentolite Ditch</li> <li>• Areas of contaminated pavement (includes spill areas)</li> </ul>	Contaminated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reactor Office and Laboratory Building (1141)</li> <li>• Primary Pump House (1134)</li> <li>• Fan House (1132)</li> <li>• Waste Handling Building (1133)</li> <li>• Hot Retention Area (1155)</li> <li>• Cold Retention Basins (1154)</li> <li>• Hot pipe tunnel</li> </ul> Uncontaminated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cold pipe tunnel</li> <li>• Reactor Services Equipment Building (1131)</li> <li>• Reactor Gas Services Building (1135)</li> <li>• Reactor Compressor Building (1136)</li> <li>• Reactor Substation (1161)</li> <li>• Reactor Security Building (1191)</li> <li>• Reactor water tower (1151)</li> <li>• Reactor sludge basins (1153)</li> <li>• Reactor precipitator (1157)</li> <li>• Reactor Cryogenic and Gas Supply Farm and Building (1195 and 9837)</li> <li>• Reactor Gas Storage Structure (1196)</li> </ul>

\* Refer to Figure 1-2 for location of facilities.



1480D-1-2

Figure 1-2. Plot Plan of Plum Brook Reactor Facility (modified from NASA 1980b)

## Reactor Building (Building 1111)

The Reactor Building is a 46 × 49-m (150- × 160-ft) flat-roofed, four-story building (two basement levels, main level, and a second story level). Figures 1-3 and 1-4 show elevation and plan views of the Reactor Building. The reactor and quadrants are enclosed within a 30-m (100-ft) diameter, (1.9-cm) ¾-in. thick steel containment vessel (Figures 1-3 and 1-4), extending from 17 m (56 ft) below grade to 16 m (53 ft) above grade. The stainless steel reactor tank is 2.7-m (9-ft) in diameter and 9.4 m (31 ft) high and is encased in a concrete biological shield varying in thickness up to 2.7 m (9 ft). A cut-away view of the reactor tank and biological shield is shown in Figure 1-5. The top of the reactor tank is near grade level (Figure 1-3). The reactor core consists of uranium/aluminum alloy fuel elements clad with aluminum alloy, arranged in a 3 × 9 lattice with five fueled cadmium control rods in the center row of the lattice (Figure 1-6). Forty-four beryllium reflector pieces surround the fuel eccentrically along with two cadmium/beryllium regulating rods and three shim safety rods (cadmium/beryllium). This 81- × 86-cm (32- × 34-in.) array is housed in a core box made of three aluminum alloy side plates, one beryllium side plate, and aluminum alloy top and bottom grids (Figure 1-7). A lockalloy (beryllium/aluminum alloy) flow divider plate is also part of the core box. Three concentric stainless thermal shields protect the reactor tank near the reactor core, and two concentric thermal shields are below the reactor core. The reactor was light-water cooled and moderated with a primary beryllium reflector and secondary water reflector. Experiments were inserted by means of two horizontal through tubes, six horizontal beam tubes, and two vertical experiment tubes, all of which are of aluminum alloy construction. Various hydraulic rabbit and instrument thimble assemblies are also present inside the reactor tank.

The reactor tank and concrete biological shield are surrounded by four quadrants, three (A, C, and D) of which could be flooded with water for additional biological shielding. Quadrant B was a dry area. The floors of these quadrants are located approximately 8 m (25 ft) below grade. A system of canals was used to transfer materials or fuel assemblies to and from the reactor tank, the fuel storage area, and the adjacent Hot Laboratory (Building 1112). The layout of the transfer and storage canal system is shown in Figure 1-4. Canal D contained the underwater beam room. Quadrants A and C connect to canal E inside the perimeter of the containment vessel. A door between canals E and F permitted transfer of material to and from the containment vessel. Canal G was used for storing spent fuel and contains the spent fuel storage racks. Canal H contains the mock-up reactor. (Canals J and K are located in the Hot Laboratory.)

The quadrant and canal recirculation system recirculated water from quadrants A, C, and D through two filter units and two mixed resin deionizers in the Fan House. The quadrant and canal pump-out system was used to pump water from quadrants A, C, and D and canals E through K into the Cold Retention Basins for storage. There were also options for routing quadrant and canal water to and from the Hot Retention Area.

The hot drain system consists of the drain collection systems for all wastewater drainage that originated directly or indirectly from a radioactively contaminated area. The system is made up of 12 collection sumps (located in the Fan House, Waste Handling Building, Reactor Office and

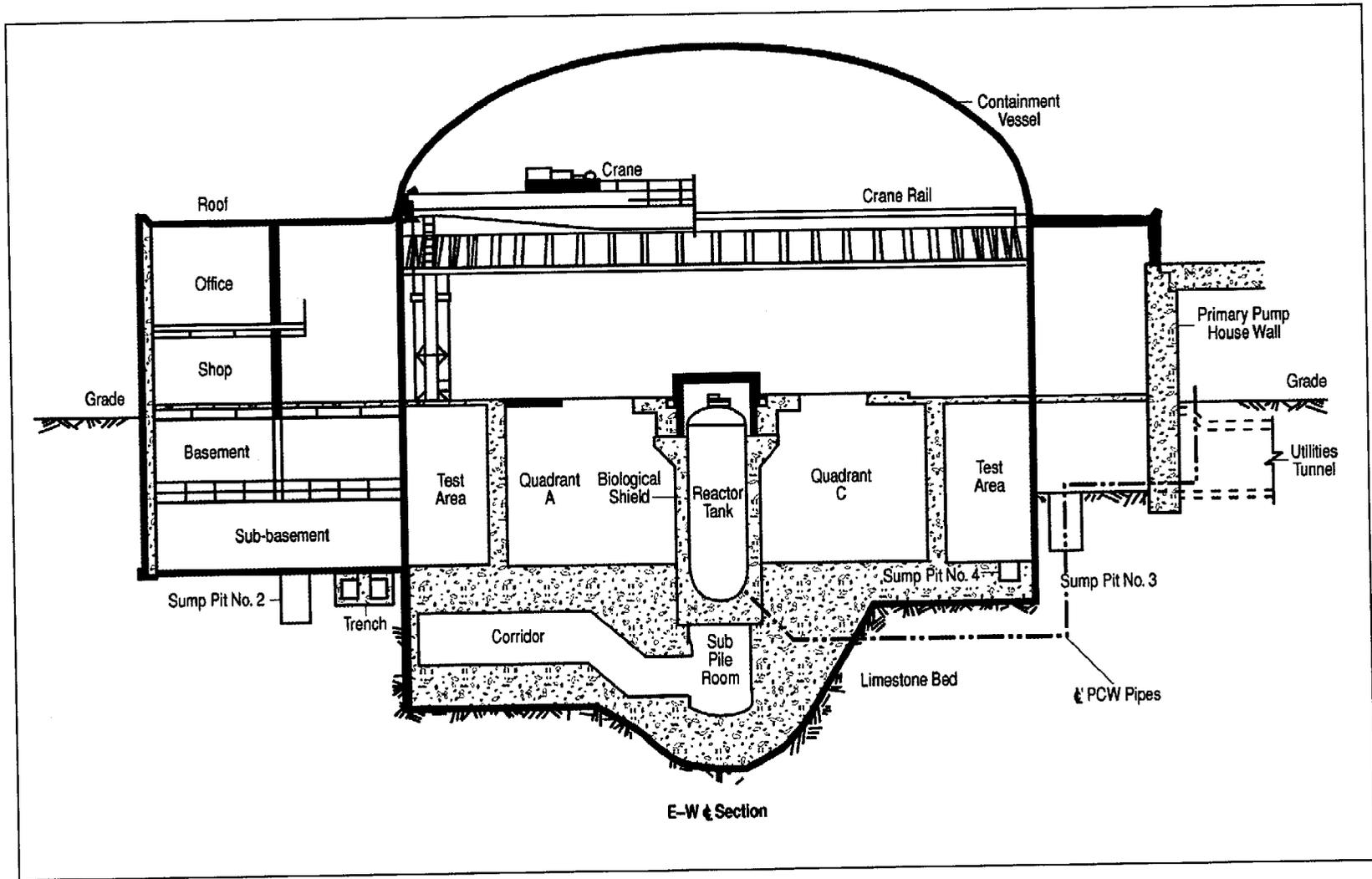


Figure 1-3. Elevation View of Reactor Building (1111) (modified from NASA 1980b)

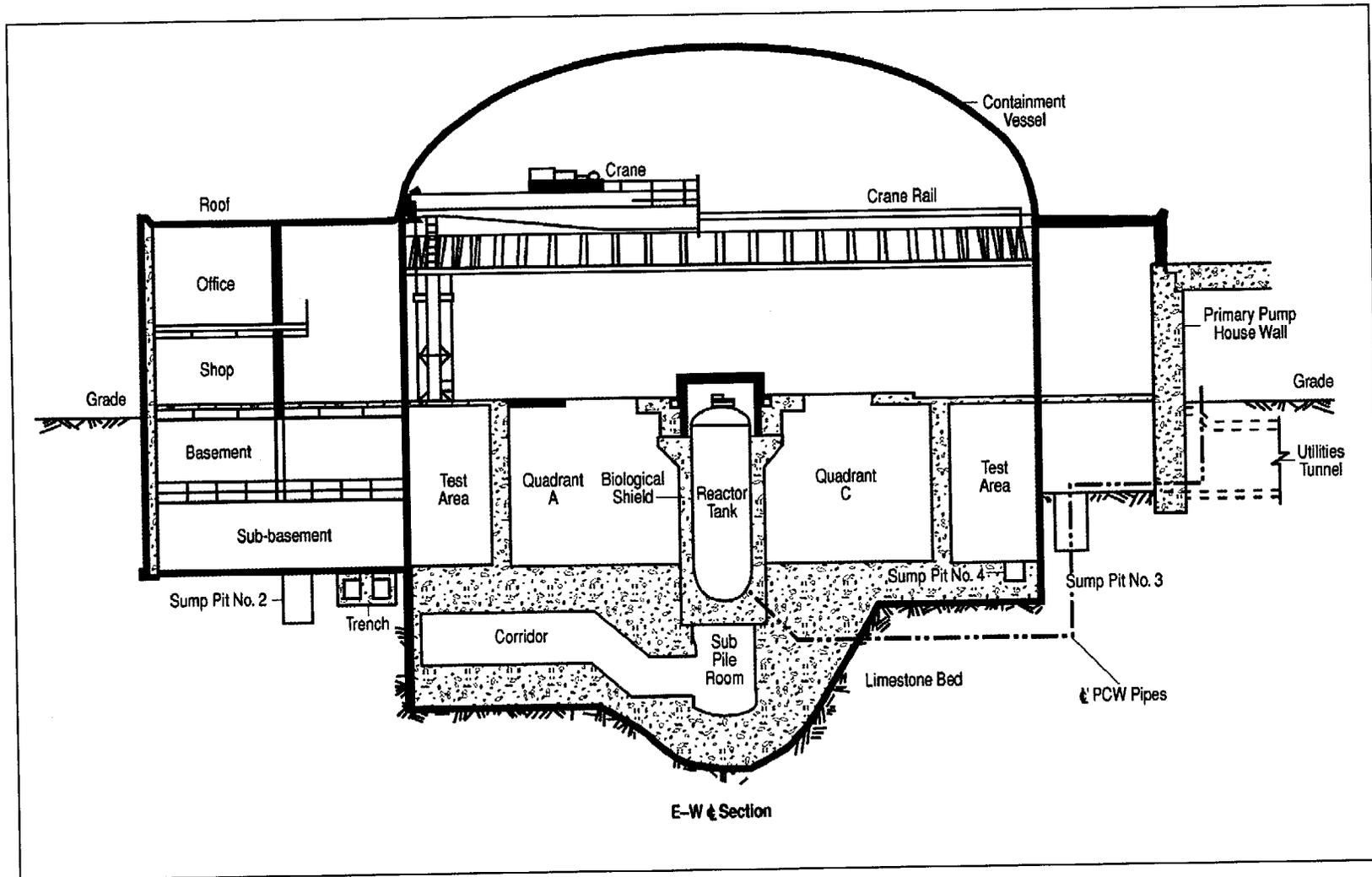


Figure 1-3. Elevation View of Reactor Building (111) (modified from NASA 1980b)

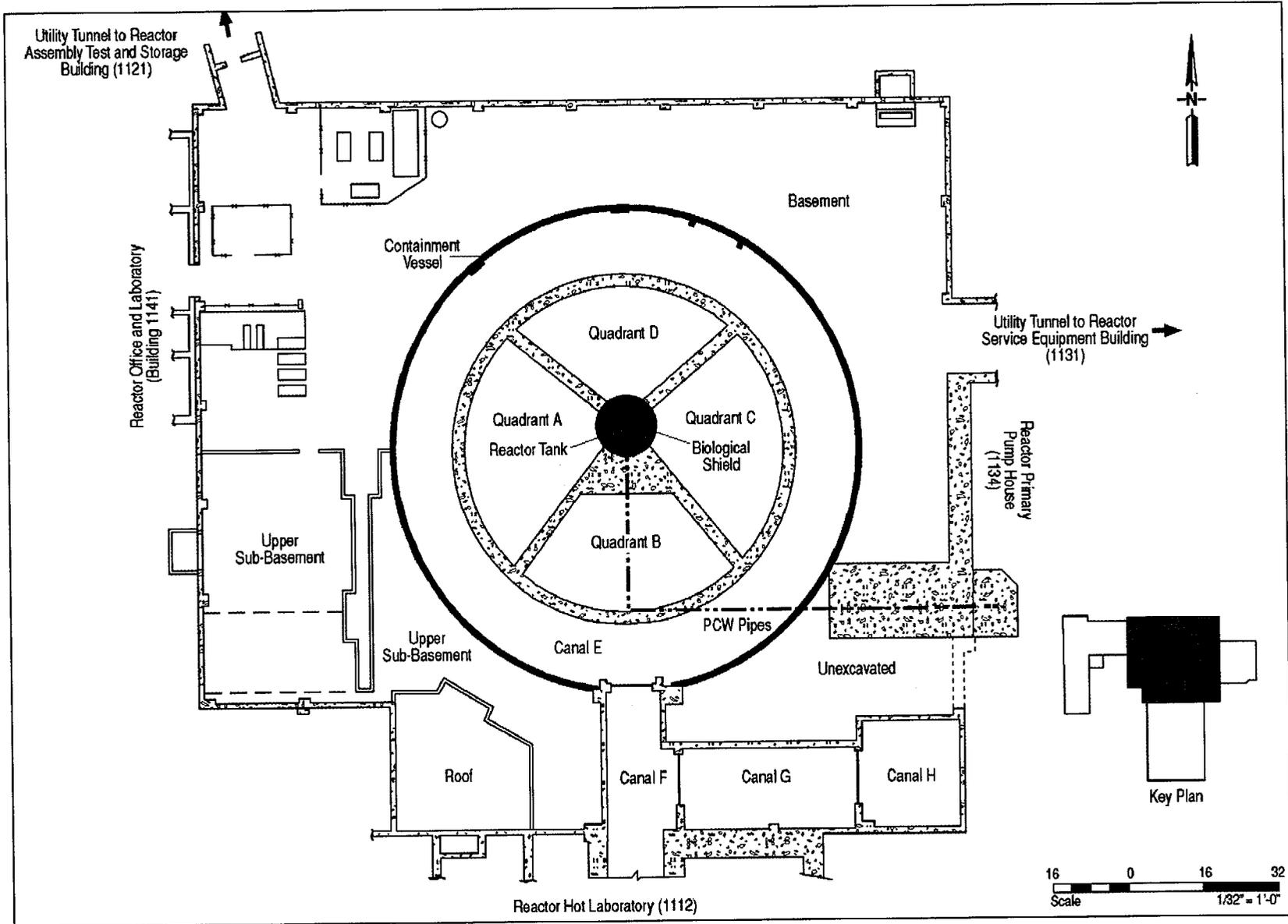


Figure 1-4. Plan View of Reactor Building (111) (modified from NASA 1969)

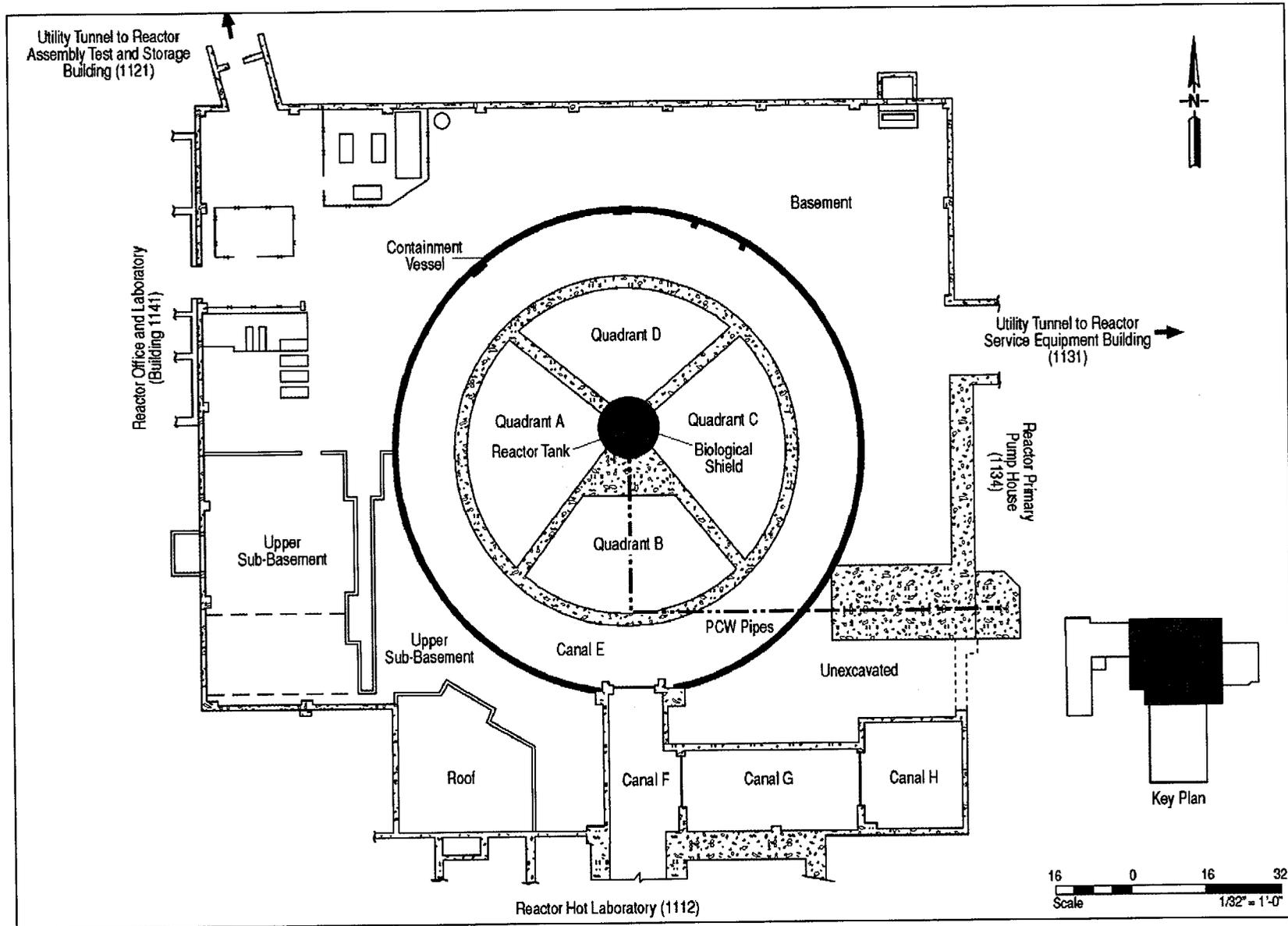
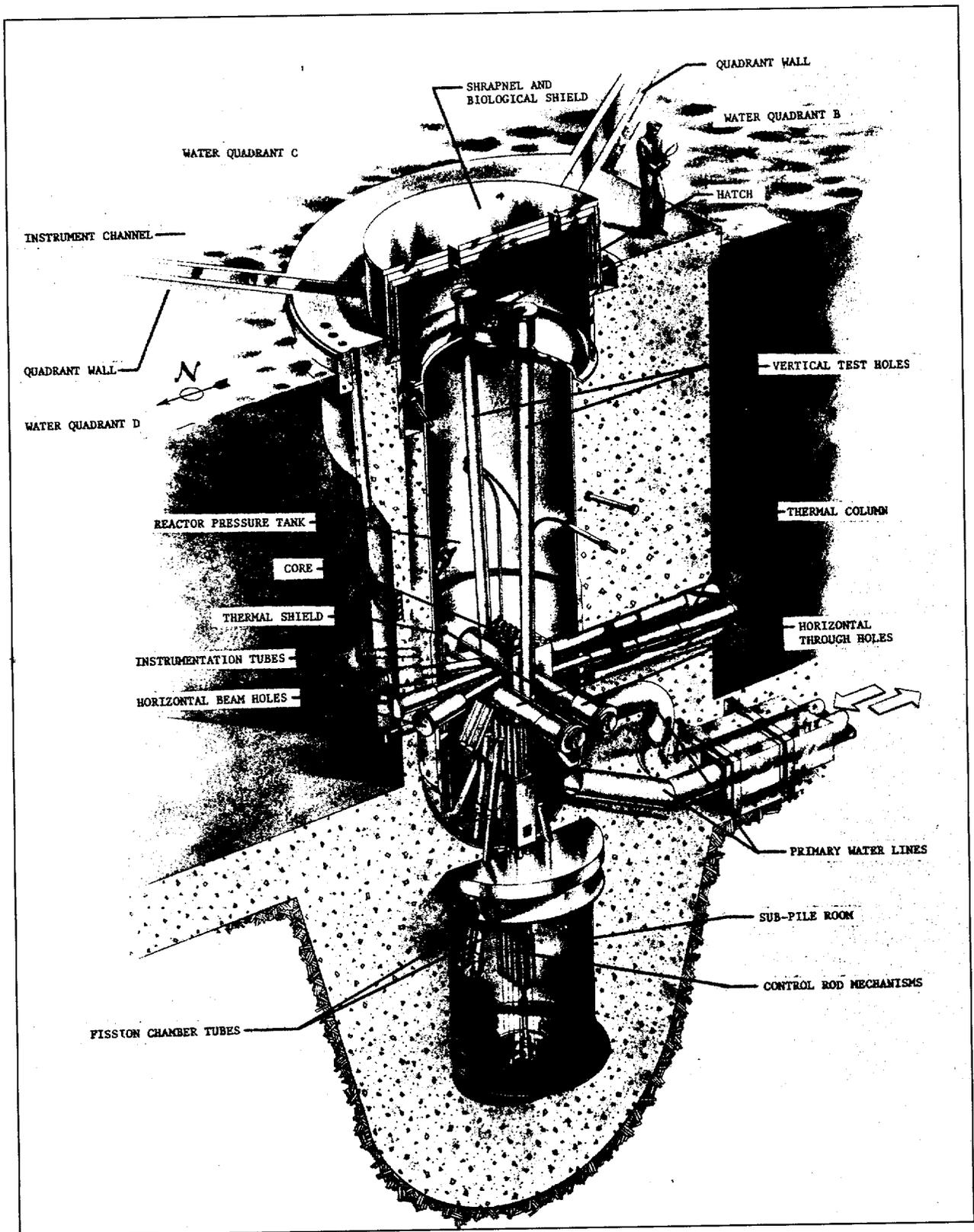
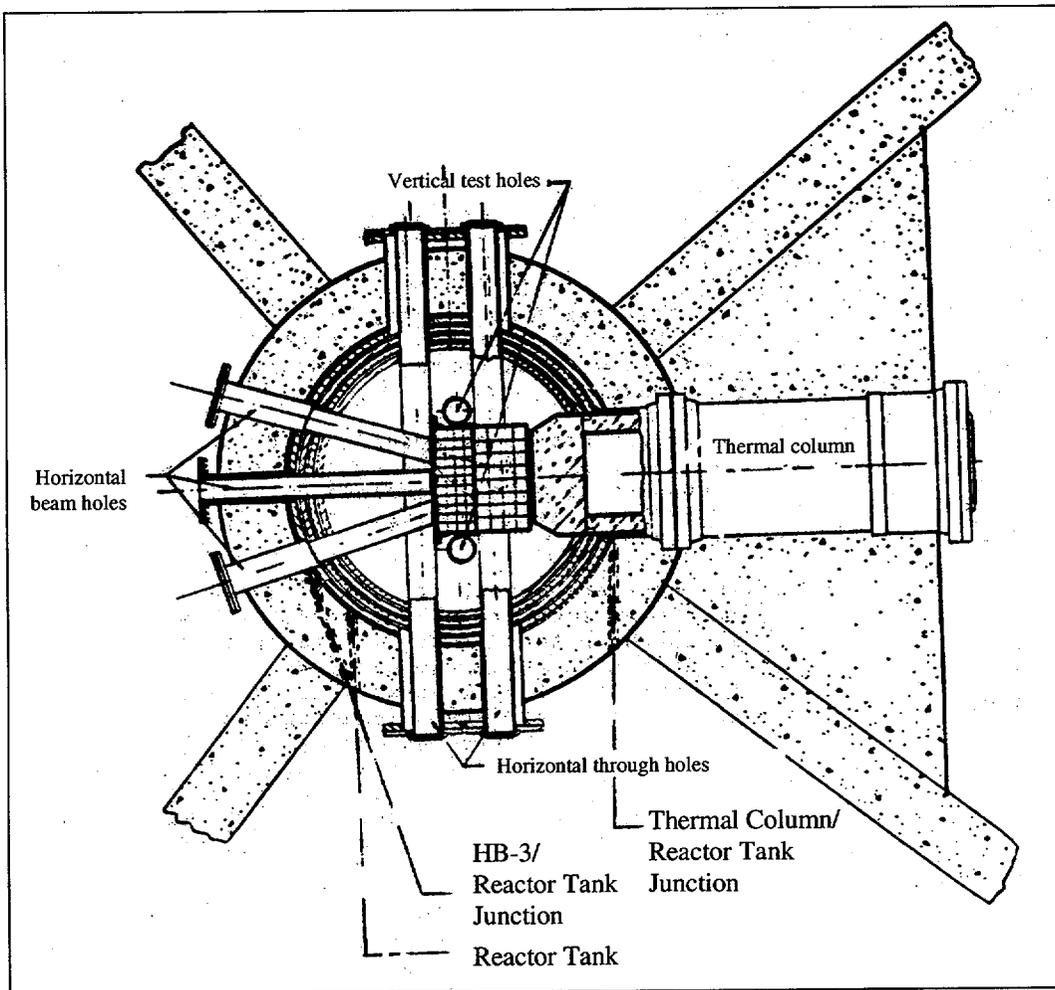


Figure 1-4. Plan View of Reactor Building (1111) (modified from NASA 1969)



**Figure 1-5. Cut-away View of Reactor Tank and Biological Shield  
(modified from NASA 1980b)**



**Figure 1-6. Horizontal Cross Section of Concrete Biological Shield and Reactor Core (modified from Teledyne Isotopes 1987)**

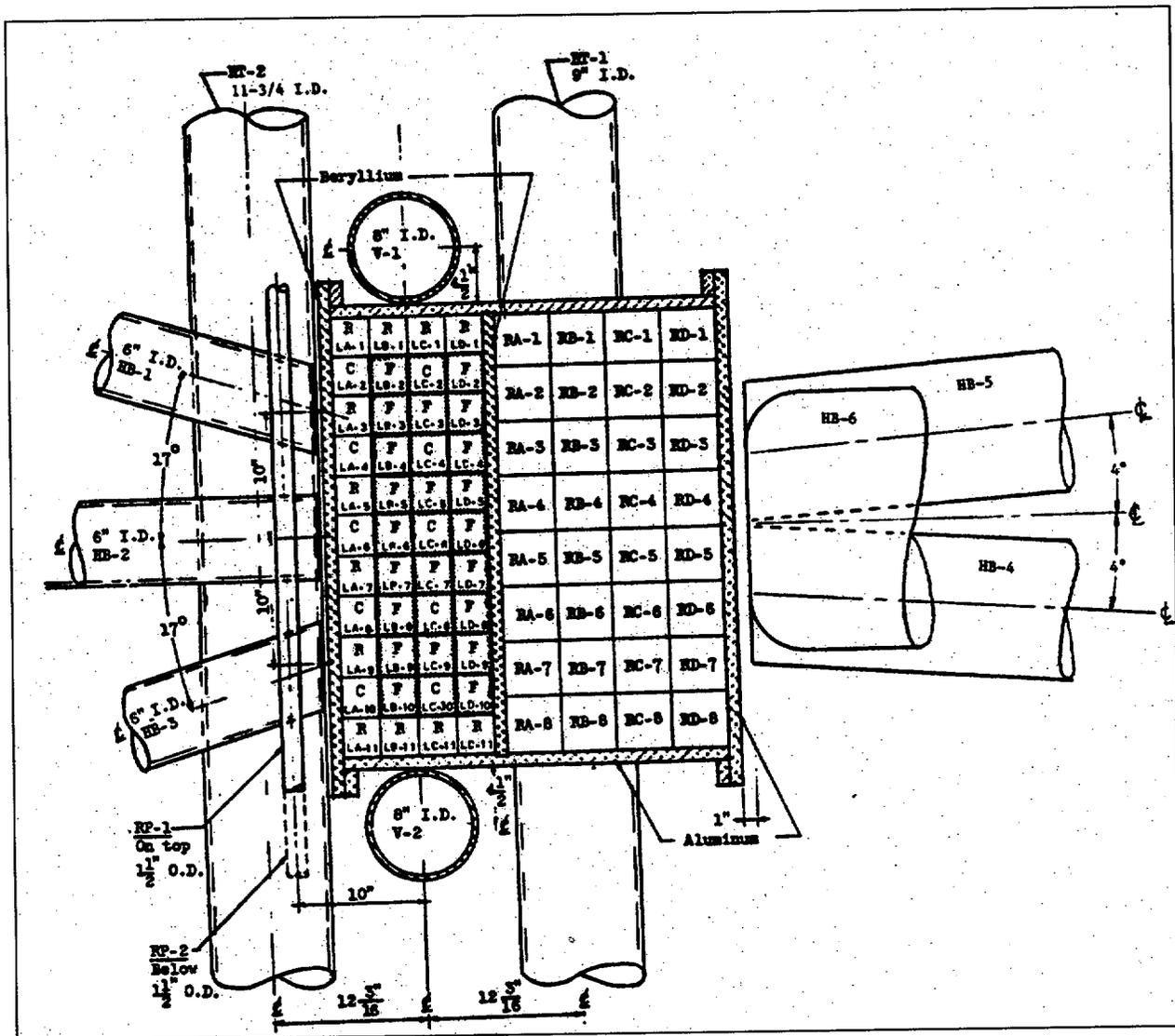


Figure 1-7. Horizontal Cross Section of Reactor Core  
(modified from NASA 1980b)

Laboratory Building, Primary Pump House, Hot Laboratory, Reactor Building, and inside the containment vessel) along with associated pumps and valves. Pumps were used to pump liquids that had collected in the sumps to the Hot Retention Area.

The defueled, 100-kilowatt swimming pool type reactor (i.e., where cooling occurred by convection) mock-up reactor is housed in the Reactor Building in canal H. The mock-up reactor was used to calibrate fuel elements and other experiment components and to test rigs before insertion into the test reactor.

Primary cooling water piping extends from the reactor tank to the Primary Pump House (1134) (adjacent to the east side of the Reactor Building); the piping route is shown in Figures 1-3 and 1-4. The primary cooling water piping was used to remove the heat from the reactor core during operations and transfer the heat to the secondary cooling loop. The primary cooling water piping includes piping in the reactor tank, three primary pumps, two main heat exchangers, a shutdown cooling loop, interconnecting piping, and auxiliary systems such as the bypass cleanup system and the degassifier located in the Primary Pump House. The 61-cm (24-in.) diameter primary system supply and return lines are embedded in concrete (i.e., surrounded by concrete).

The Reactor Building also houses work space used to set up experiment assemblies, a personnel decontamination facility, a change room, and a control room for remote operation of experiment rigs. The control room and offices are on a mezzanine extending along the north and west walls. Basement areas are accessible by a stairway. The basement areas of the Reactor Building are connected to the Reactor Office and Laboratory Building, Hot Laboratory, and Reactor Services Equipment Building through underground tunnels.

### **Hot Laboratory (Building 1112)**

The Hot Laboratory is a 32- × 41-m (104- × 136-ft), two-story (basement and main level), concrete building attached to the south side of the Reactor Building. Figure 1-8 presents a plan view and Figure 1-9 presents an elevation view of the Hot Laboratory. The layout of the seven hot cells is shown in Figure 1-8. Behind hot cells 1 and 2, next to the Reactor Building, is a heavily shielded 12- × 23-m (40- × 74-ft) hot handling room, (Room 17) having 188-cm (74-in.) thick concrete walls. In the hot handling room, materials were remotely transferred from canals J and K to either the hot cells or the Hot Dry Storage Area (Room 19). The hot handling room also contains the off-gas cleanup system (Room 19A). The Hot Dry Storage Area is in the basement area next to canal J. It is a shielded room used to store irradiated reactor internal components (e.g., beryllium pieces); experiment components (e.g., cadmium sections); and tools (e.g., core fuel element handling tools and end box cut off equipment). The top of the area is covered with removable concrete shielding slabs. A shielded observation window is located in the south wall of the Reactor Building for viewing the Hot Dry Storage Area. A 3- × 3-m (10- × 10-ft) lead-filled sliding door separates the hot handling room from the rest of the hot work area. Rooms in the Hot Laboratory include work areas, an office, storage and repair shop areas, and a decontamination room.

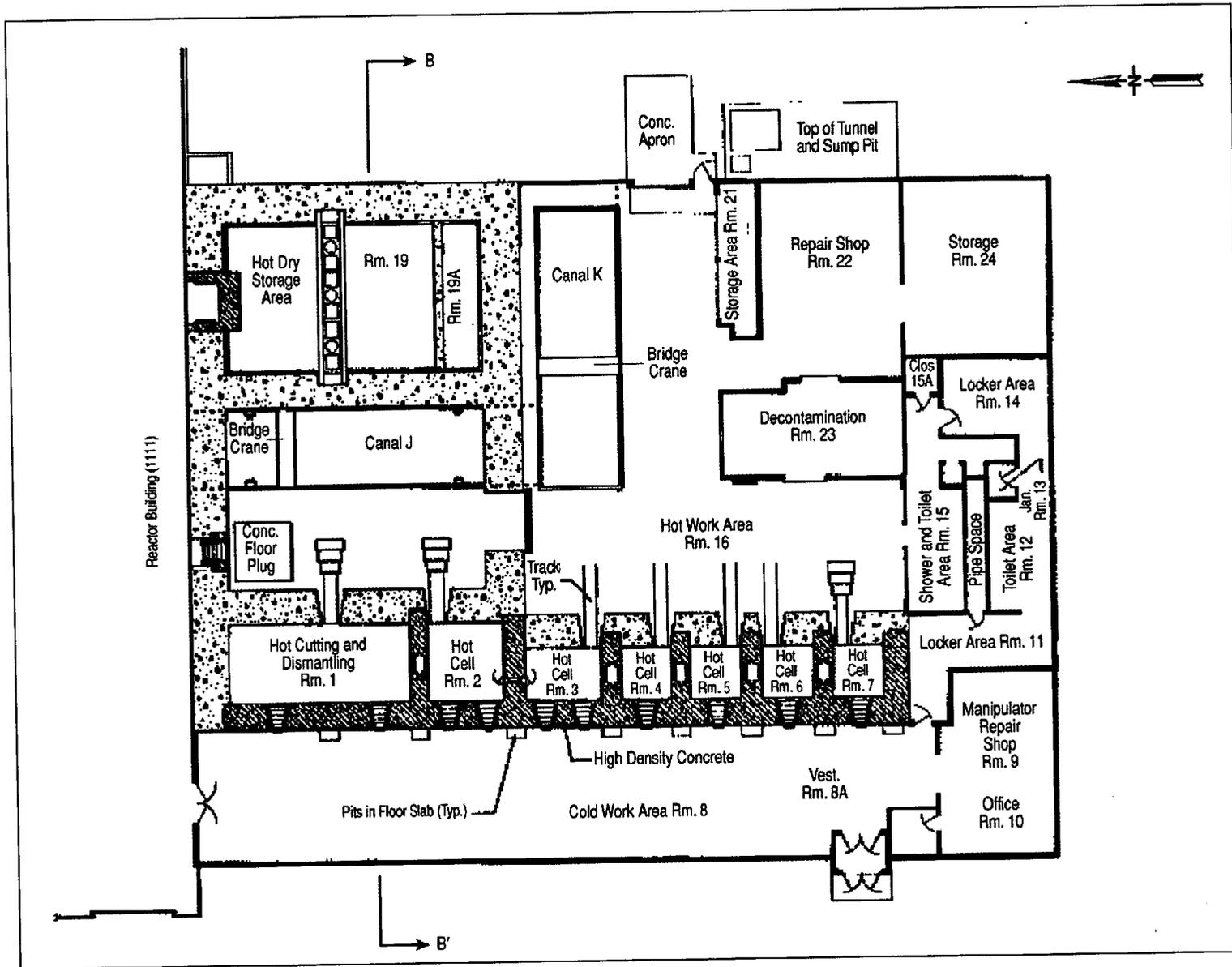


Figure 1-8. Plan View of Hot Laboratory (1112) (modified from NASA 1980b)

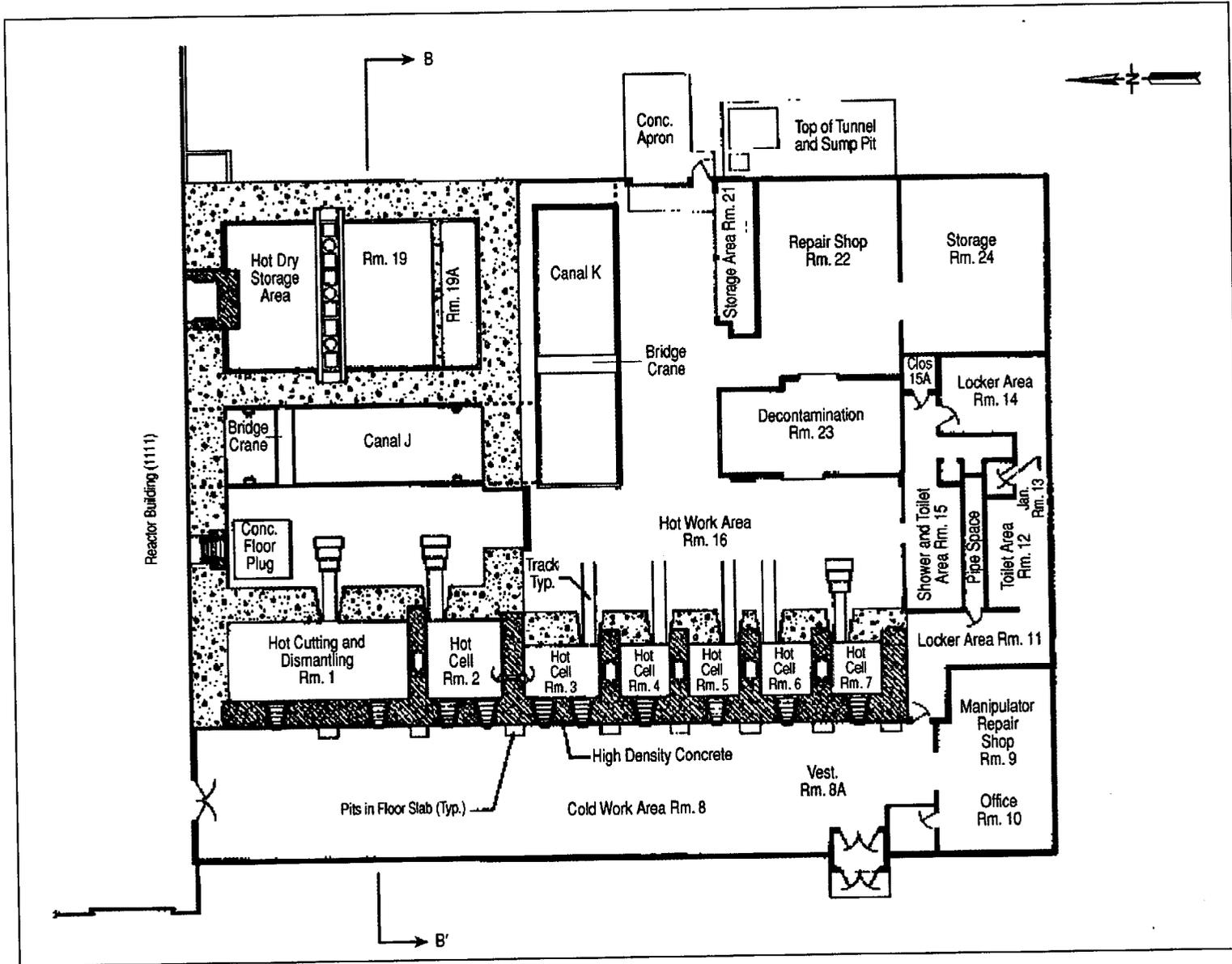
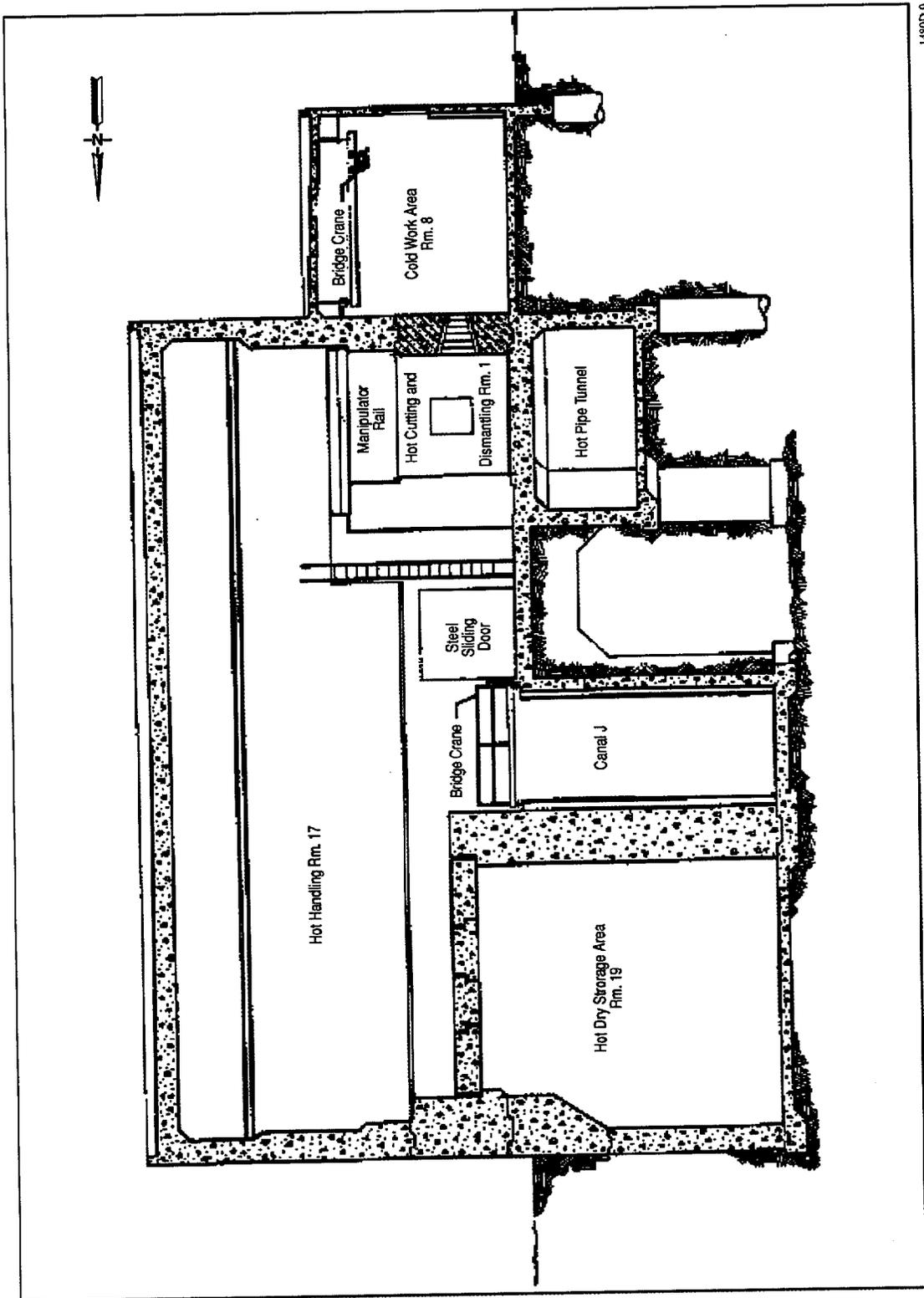
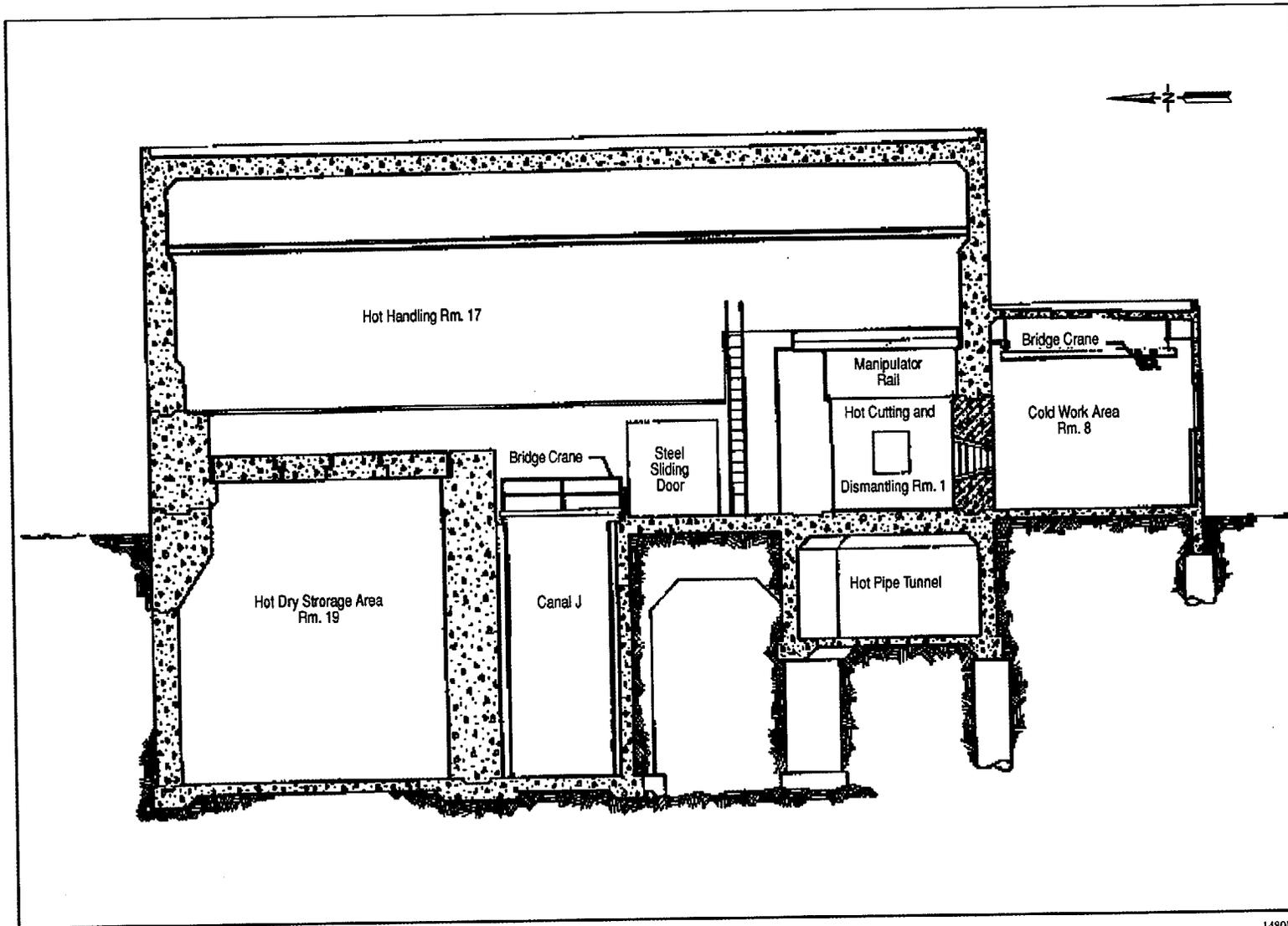


Figure 1-8. Plan View of Hot Laboratory (1112) (modified from NASA 1980b)



1480D-9

Figure 1-9. Elevation View (Section B-B') at Hot Laboratory (1112) (refer to Figure 1-8 for Section B-B') (modified from NASA 1980b)



1480D-9

**Figure 1-9. Elevation View (Section B-B') at Hot Laboratory (1112)  
(refer to Figure 1-8 for Section B-B') (modified from NASA 1980b)**

### **Reactor Office and Laboratory Building (Building 1141)**

A three-story building (basement, main level, and second story level) attached to the west side of the Reactor Building, the Reactor Office and Laboratory Building housed offices (e.g., for engineering personnel), repair shops, health physics offices, a first aid facility, and radiochemistry laboratories. The layout of the Reactor Office and Laboratory Building is shown in Figure 1-10. At shutdown, the majority of the equipment in the offices and some of the equipment in the laboratories was removed. Equipment remaining in the laboratories includes fume hoods, sinks, drain lines, and a sump. Services to the building were terminated with the exception of electricity and the sumps. Sanitary systems and water were cut off, the heating system was secured, and the laboratory hoods were cabled shut to prevent entry.

### **Primary Pump House (Building 1134)**

A one-story building attached to the east side of the Reactor Building, the Primary Pump House contains the reactor primary pumps, heat exchangers, ion exchangers for the primary cooling system, primary coolant strainer, resin pits, and a hot sump. A floor plan of the Primary Pump House is shown in Figure 1-11.

### **Fan House (Building 1132)**

A two-story building (basement and main level) southeast of the Hot Laboratory, the Fan House houses filtration and exhaust systems for several PBRF buildings. Room air from the Reactor Building, containment vessel, quadrants A and C, Hot Laboratory, Reactor Office and Laboratory Building basement, Primary Pump House, Waste Handling Building, Hot Retention Area, and hot pipe tunnel flowed into the Fan House, was filtered, and then exhausted through the Fan House stack. Equipment inside the Fan House includes pumps, compressors, storage tanks, scrubber, activated carbon absorbers, and monitoring system. The floor plan of the Fan House is shown in Figure 1-12.

### **Waste Handling Building (Building 1133)**

A two-story building (basement and main level) located southeast of the Fan House, the Waste Handling Building contains the liquid waste evaporator system with the associated boiler, laundry equipment, waste packaging equipment, and waste storage facilities. The floor plan of the Waste Handling Building is shown in Figure 1-13.

### **Hot Retention Area (1155)**

The Hot Retention Area, located south of the Fan House, contains eight 230,000-L (60,000-gal) and four 28,000-L (7500-gal) steel underground storage tanks. The larger tanks, located in an underground concrete room, received all of the radioactively contaminated water from the hot drain system. The four smaller tanks were used as holding tanks. The contaminated water was treated, and the water in the holding tanks was monitored and then was discharged to the Cold Retention Basins (1154), the quadrant and canal recirculating system, or to the Water Effluent Monitoring Station (1192).

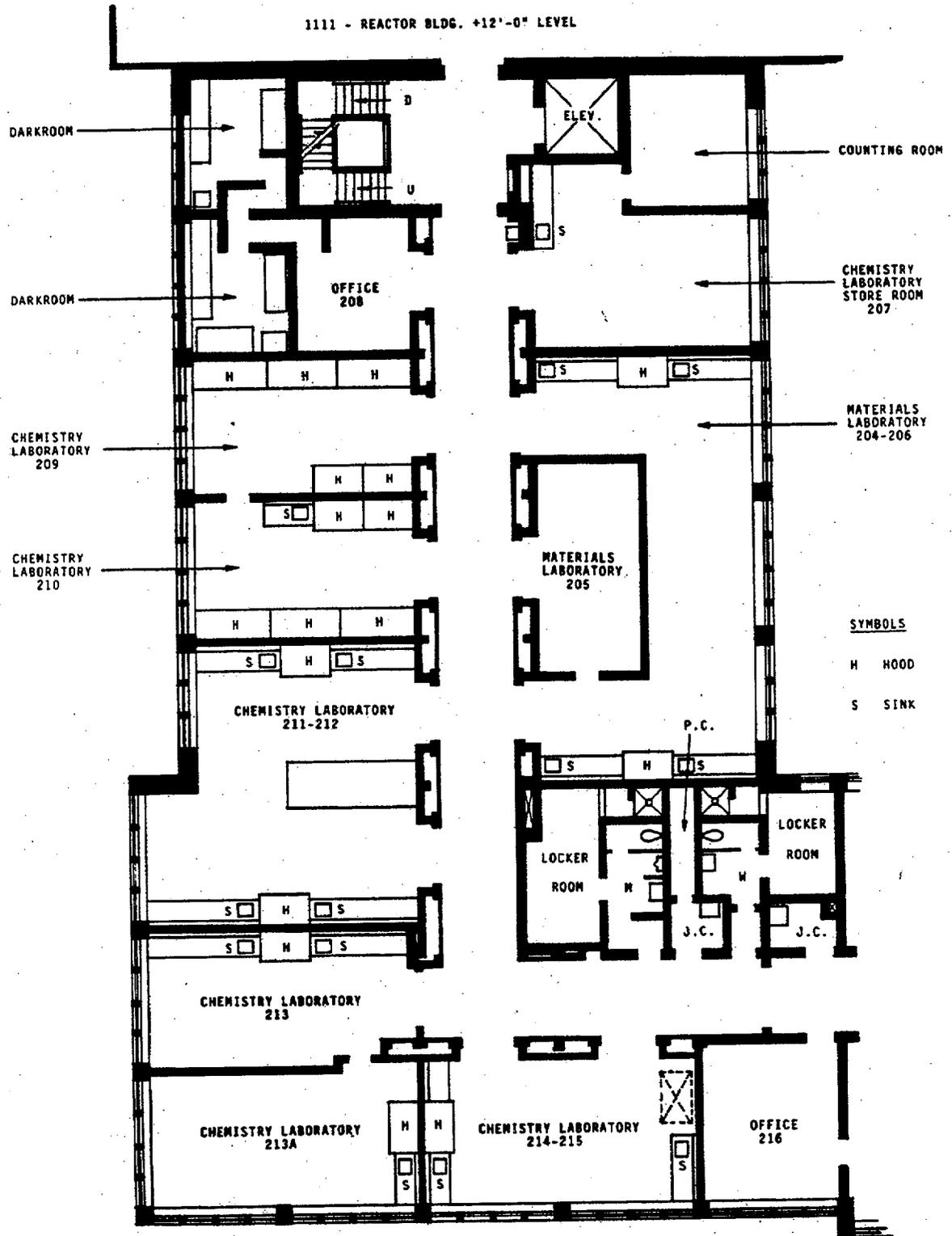


Figure 1-10. Plan View of Reactor Office and Laboratory Building (1141)  
(modified from NASA 1980b)

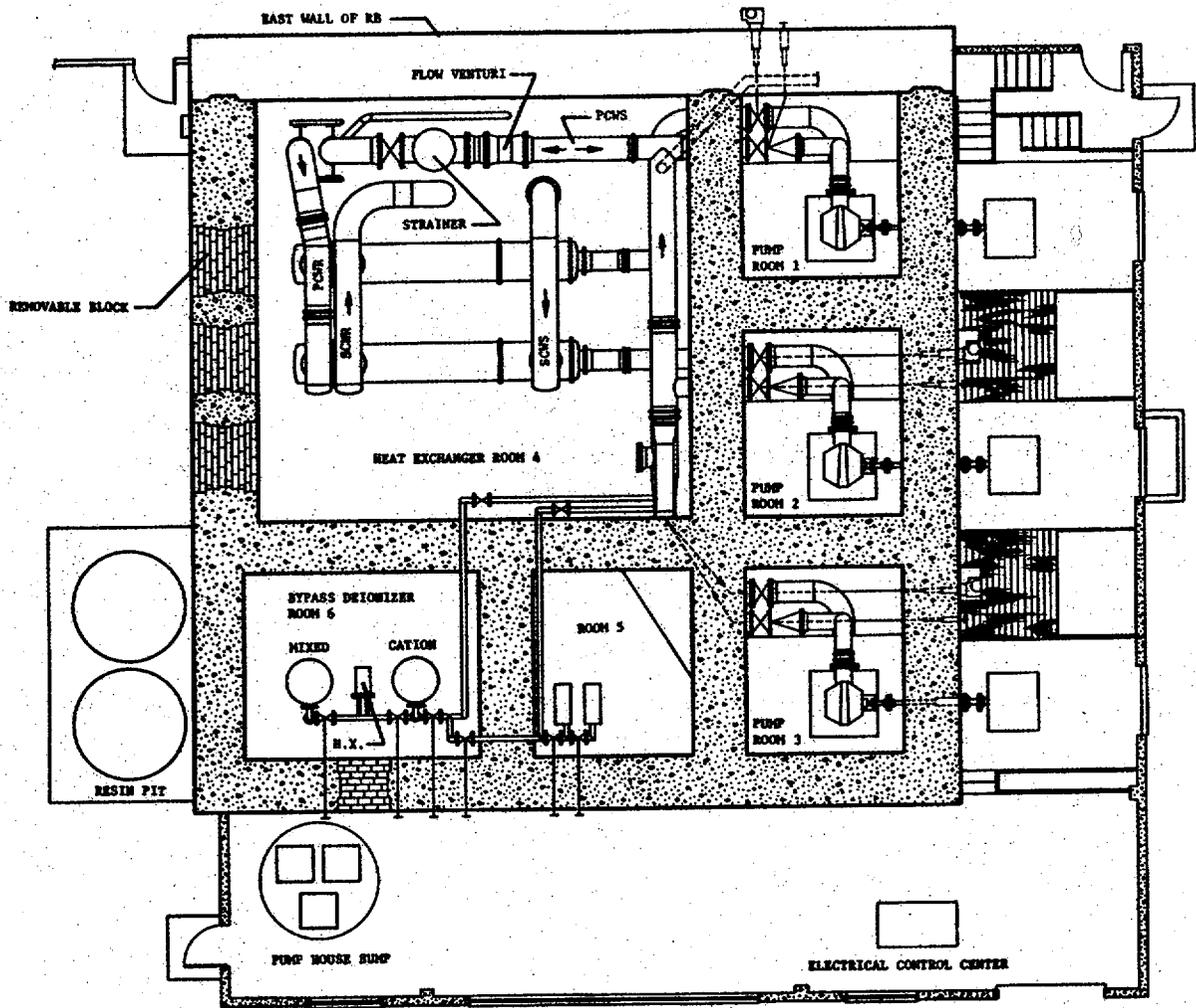


Figure 1-11. Plan View of Primary Pump House (1134) (modified from NASA 1980b)

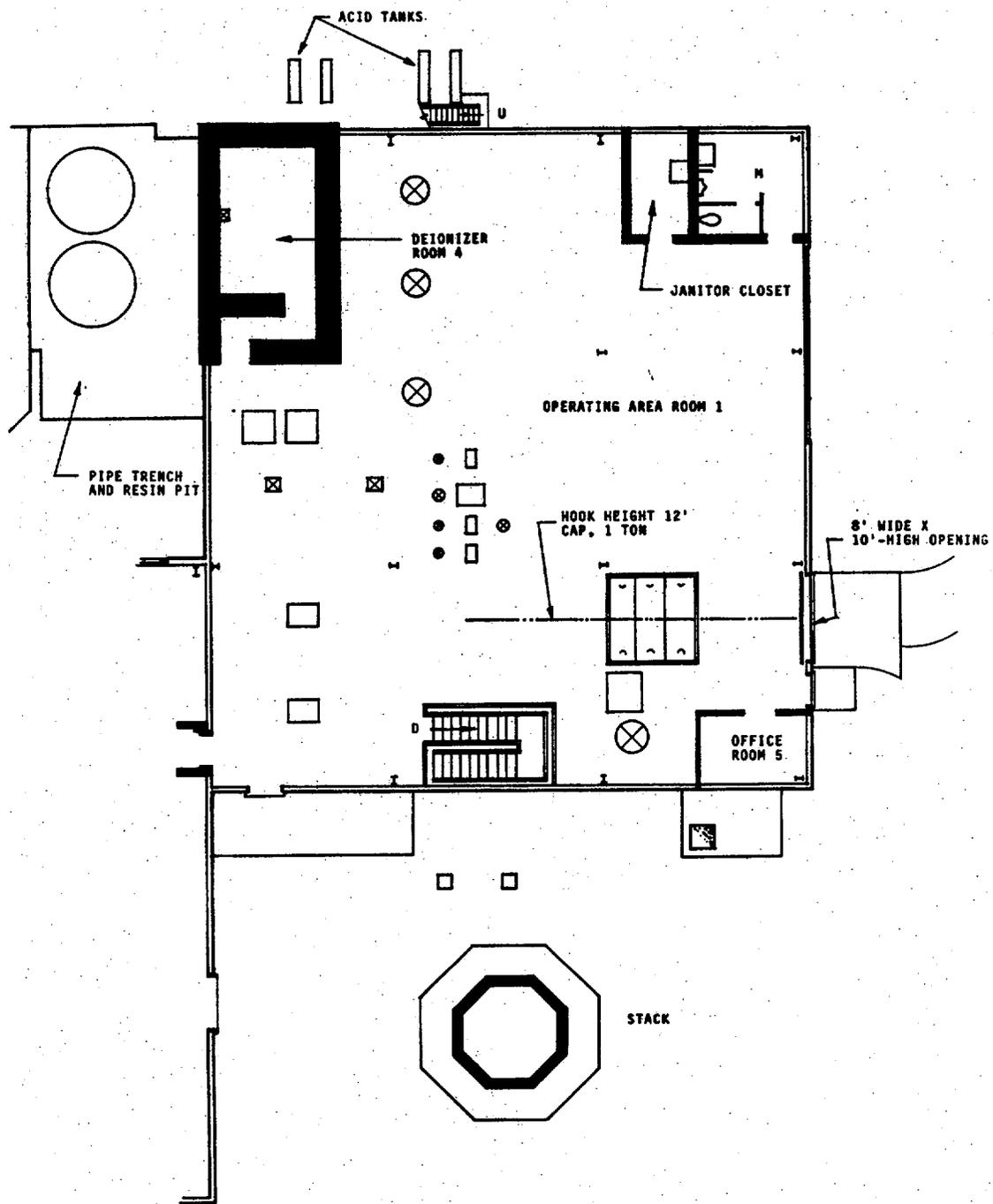


Figure 1-12. Plan View of Fan House (1132) (modified from NASA 1980b)

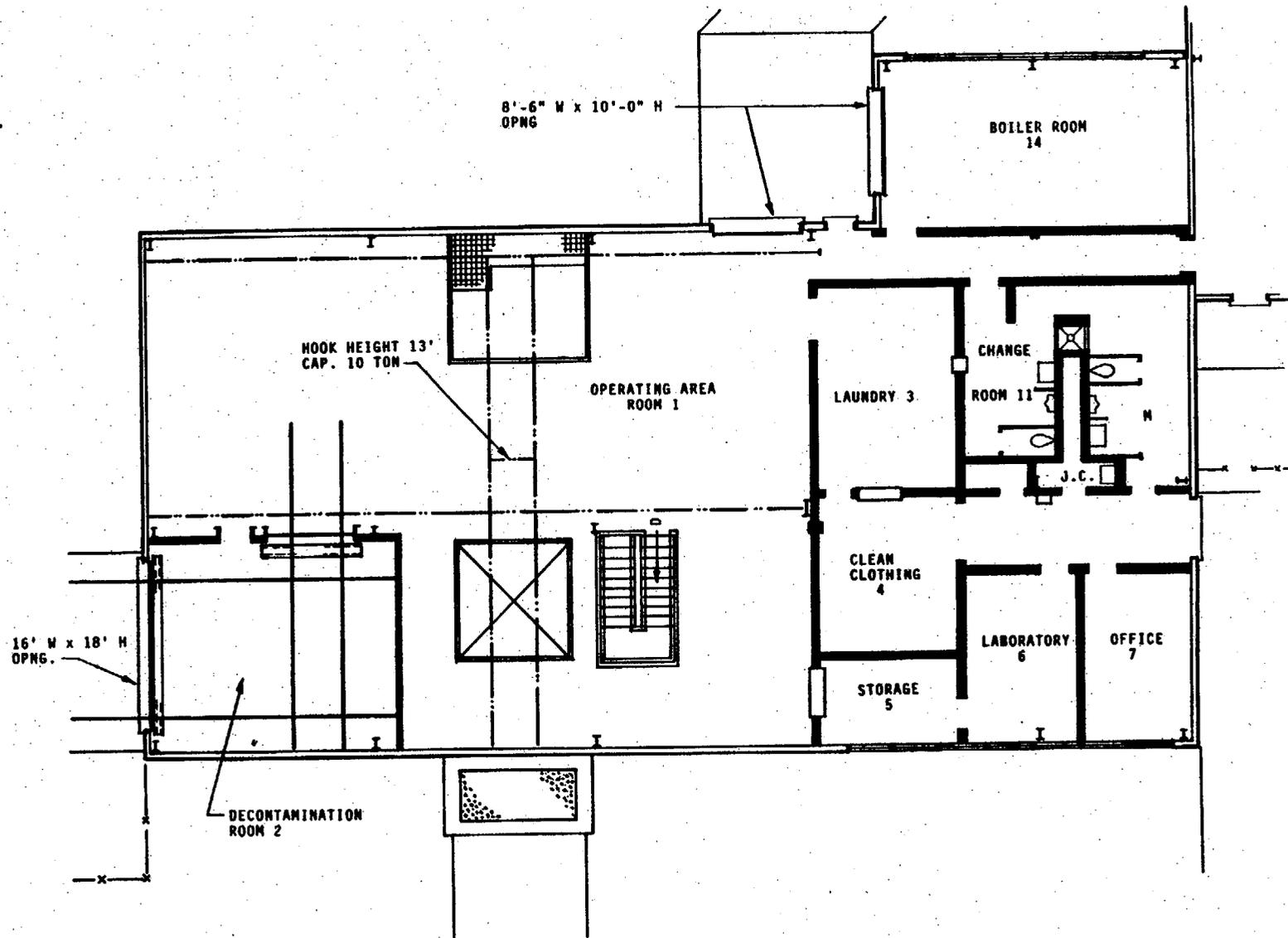


Figure 1-13. Plan View of Waste Handling Building (1133) (modified from NASA 1980b)

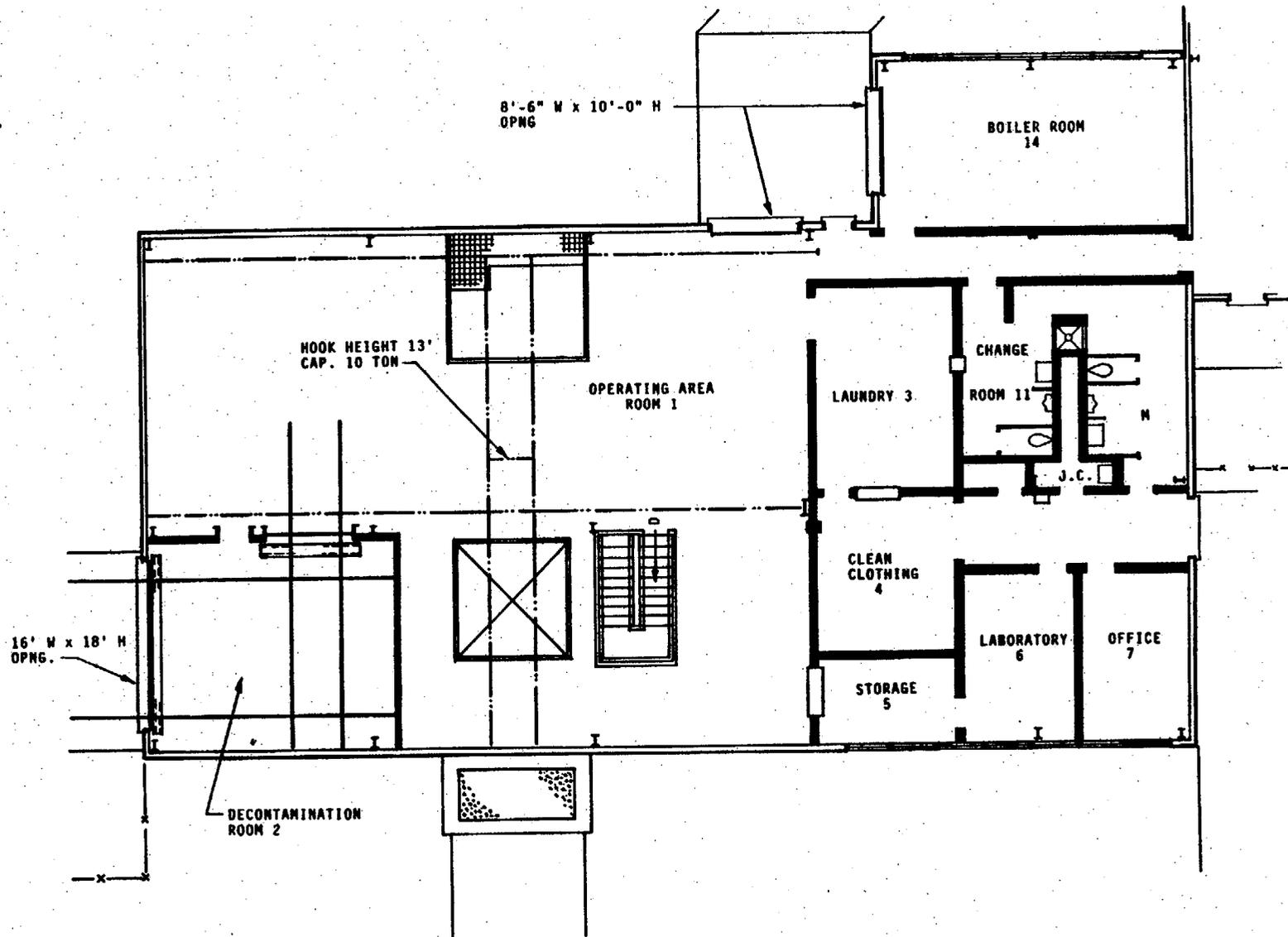


Figure 1-13. Plan View of Waste Handling Building (1133) (modified from NASA 1980b)

## **Cold Retention Basins (1154)**

The Cold Retention Basins are two 1,900,000-L (500,000-gal) belowgrade storage basins in the shape of inverted pyramids. The basins were used to store low-level radioactive water, primarily from the quadrants and canals in the Reactor Building. During facility operations the basins were suspected of leaking, so a plastic liner was installed. At the time of shutdown, the Cold Retention Basins were opened to permit groundwater to enter the structures to equalize the water levels in the groundwater and basins and prevent the basins from floating in the event of a high groundwater table. Silt and sludge accumulated on the side walls and bottoms of the basins.

## **Hot Pipe Tunnels**

The hot pipe tunnel connects the Reactor Office and Laboratory Building (1141), the Hot Laboratory (1112), the Reactor Building (1111), and the Fan House (1132) (shown on Figure 1-2). The tunnel contains piping that was used to handle radioactive liquids (e.g., piping that was part of the hot drain systems) and gasses. The tunnel connecting the Reactor Office and Laboratory Building is a 1.8-m (6-ft) diameter corrugated steel pipe. The tunnel connecting the Reactor Building, Hot Laboratory, and the Fan House is made of concrete and is approximately 4.3 m (14 ft) wide by 3 m (10 ft) high.

## **Emergency Retention Basin**

The Emergency Retention Basin was a 76 × 107-m (250 × 350-ft), 38 million-L (10 million-gal) aboveground, earthen-diked basin located in the southeast corner of the PBRF. It was used as emergency storage for radioactively contaminated water that exceeded the allowable discharge criteria. Earth in the basin is mostly brown clay to a depth of at least 3 m (10 ft).

## **Drainage System**

A series of open ditches, covered culverts, and more than 40 catch basins were used to collect and transport surface water runoff, building sump discharges, roof top runoff, and low-level liquid wastes (within discharge limits) to the Water Effluent Monitoring Station (Building 1192). The ditches and culverts are shown as dotted lines on Figure 1-2.

## **Water Effluent Monitoring Station (Building 1192)**

The Water Effluent Monitoring Station is located in the southeast corner of the PBRF (Figure 1-2). It consists of a metal building mounted on top of a concrete trench containing metal gates and flumes. All PBRF liquid effluents flowed through the series of flumes at this station, were monitored for radioactivity, and were discharged to the Pentolite Ditch. A small amount of silt accumulated behind the weirs.

## **Pentolite Ditch**

The Pentolite Ditch is located along Pentolite Road extending from the southeast corner of the Emergency Retention Basin approximately 840 m (2750 ft) eastward to Plum Brook (Figures 1-1 and 1-2). This ditch received all water from the Water Effluent Monitoring Station.

## **Uncontaminated Facilities**

As shown in Table 1-1, there are several facilities within the PBRF that are not expected to be radioactively contaminated:

- Cold pipe tunnel – contains piping used for transporting uncontaminated process water from the Reactor Water Tower (1151) to the Reactor Services Equipment Building (1131) and the Primary Pump House (1134)
- Reactor Services Equipment Building (1131) – located east of the Primary Pump House, contains water processing equipment, air compressors, electrical control equipment, diesel generators for emergency electrical power, and the health physics radiochemistry/analytical laboratory
- Reactor Gas Services Building (1135) – located just north of the Reactor Building
- Reactor Compressor Building (1136) – located north of the North Road
- Reactor Substation (1161) – located south of the Reactor Services Equipment Building
- Reactor Security Building (1191) – located on the western edge of the PBRF site
- Reactor water tower (1151) – located northeast of the Reactor Services Equipment Building
- Reactor sludge basins (1153) – located east of reactor water tower
- Reactor precipitator (1157) – located north of the Reactor Services Equipment Building
- Reactor Cryogenic and Gas Supply Farm and Building (1195 and 9837) – located in the northernmost area of the PBRF
- Reactor Gas Storage Structure (1196) – located north of the North Road.

## **Historical Overview**

Construction of the PBRF began in 1956. Preoperational testing of the reactor was performed during 1961 and 1962, and full power operations began in April 1963. The PBRF was used to perform nuclear irradiation testing of fueled and unfueled experiments for space program application. The reactor was operated by NASA on an essentially uninterrupted basis for almost 10 years until January 1973 when it was shut down after accumulating 98,000 megawatt days of operation. While no reactor fuel was known to have leaked during the reactor operating life (NASA 1980a), the presence of low levels of fission products suggests that a small clad failure or recycling of treated water from the Hot Laboratory may have occurred.

The reactor was defueled from January to July 1973. During that time, the reactor fuel element assemblies (all special nuclear material, source material, and radioactive waste generated at that time) were removed from the PBRF and preliminary decontamination was performed. The fuel assemblies were transferred and reprocessed offsite, and the radioactive wastes were disposed of offsite at licensed commercial sites (NASA 1980a).

An NRC Broad Byproduct Materials License (BPL#34-06706-03) covered operation of the Hot Laboratory and the remainder of the PBRF. This license was amended on August 7, 1973, to permit only possession and storage of the licensed material. The PBRF systems and support facilities not required for safe storage were maintained (mothballed) for possible future operations and the license was terminated.

In 1977, NASA decided that the PBRF would not be placed back into operation and that it should be decommissioned, remaining radioactive structures and materials disposed of, and the NRC licenses terminated (NASA 1980b).

In March 1980, NASA requested authorization to dismantle the PBRF and associated facilities, to dispose of waste generated by the decommissioning actions, and to terminate the license. The request to dismantle was submitted for the research reactor, the mock-up reactor, and the Hot Laboratory facilities and was accompanied by an environmental report (NASA 1980a). The original submittals were revised in response to NRC questions. In May 1981, the NRC issued a dismantling order to NASA and authorized proceeding with dismantlement (NRC 1981a). The NRC staff prepared a safety evaluation report before issuing the order, which concluded, "dismantling of the Plum Brook Reactor and the Plum Brook Mock-up Reactor and disposing of component parts as described in the dismantling plans will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public" (NRC 1981a). NRC staff also prepared an environmental impact appraisal for the proposed dismantling and concluded that "there will be no significant environmental impact associated with the dismantling of the Plum Brook Reactor Facility and the disposal of component parts, and that no environmental impact statement is required..." (NRC 1981a).

Although the dismantling order was received from NRC, NASA budgetary constraints prevented the Agency from proceeding with its original plans. In October 1984, NASA informed NRC that decommissioning would be delayed because of funding constraints (Dosa 1987). As a result, NASA applied for and was granted a possession-only license that allowed it to "possess but not operate" the two reactors. The possess-but-not-operate licenses for the two reactors were reinstated in January 1987 (Dosa 1987).

Although the funding was inadequate to proceed with dismantlement as documented in the 1980 dismantling plan (NASA 1980b), NASA began characterizing the radiological contamination at the PBRF and evaluating alternatives to decontaminate and decommission the facility. The 1985 characterization data were used to support the 1987 engineering analysis of decontamination and decommissioning alternatives. This characterization information is a major information source for the discussion in Section 2.2.2.1 of this plan.

During 1997 and 1998, NASA management decided to decontaminate and decommission the PBRF to allow termination of the NRC licenses and release of the PBRF for unrestricted use.

Alternatives for terminating the PBRF license were analyzed using previous engineering studies. Confirmatory measurements of contamination at the PBRF were also made to confirm the earlier sample measurements. This characterization information is discussed in Section 2.2.2.1.

### **1.2.1 Reactor Decommissioning Overview**

The PBRF is currently in protective safe storage under two possess-but-not-operate NRC licenses: (1) license TR-3 for the main test reactor and (2) license R-93 for the mock-up reactor. The PBRF is presently shut down; building entries are locked and buildings are contained within a locked fence. All process lines, including the primary cooling water system, have been drained, flushed, and isolated. The reactor fuel element assemblies, special nuclear material, and source material have been removed from the site. The reactor tank internals and waste in the Hot Dry Storage Area of the Hot Laboratory contain most of the radioactivity. Other than these areas, the remaining residual radioactivity at the PBRF is confined generally within equipment and piping. Much lower (several orders of magnitude lower) levels of radioactivity are contained in the support facilities. Characterization surveys show that environmental contamination is primarily in the Emergency Retention Basin, with lower levels in the Water Effluent Monitoring Station, Pentolite Ditch, and a spill area.

After evaluating alternatives for decommissioning the PBRF, NASA selected the alternative to decontaminate the PBRF to terminate the NRC licenses without restriction to allow unrestricted use. In accordance with decontamination goals, radioactively contaminated soil and equipment would be removed and surfaces would be decontaminated. Buildings within the PBRF fence will be demolished and excavations and belowgrade areas will be backfilled and the areas covered. The major decommissioning tasks will include:

- Removing friable asbestos and lead paint
- Removing reactor internals and tank
- Removing the activated material in the Hot Dry Storage Area
- Removing loose equipment, fixed equipment and components, and piping in buildings and underground areas
- Removing activated portions of the concrete biological shield and other areas of contaminated concrete inside and outside of buildings
- Removing embedded piping (i.e., piping embedded in concrete)
- Removing contaminated soil and either leveling or backfilling the areas
- Conducting final status surveys of all affected areas after decontamination to verify that radioactive material has been removed to below the license termination criteria
- Demolishing the abovegrade portions of decontaminated buildings and other structures
- Backfilling the belowgrade portions of decontaminated buildings and in-ground structures
- Submitting reports to NRC that demonstrate compliance with the license termination criteria.

The final status survey plan, developed according to NRC and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidance, is contained in Section 4 of this decommissioning plan.

The planning phase and site preparation would last about 14 months. Then decontamination and dismantling activities would begin and last for about 32 months. It is estimated that the total decommissioning project would be completed in 4 years.

Approximately 3170 m<sup>3</sup> (112,000 ft<sup>3</sup>) of radioactive waste will be generated during PBRF decommissioning. It will be sent offsite either to a processor for decontamination or volume reduction or directly to a disposal facility. An estimated 6435 m<sup>3</sup> (227,200 ft<sup>3</sup>) of nonradioactive building demolition debris (concrete and metal) that meets release criteria will be generated. Concrete will be used onsite as backfill, and metal debris will be disposed of offsite at an industrial landfill.

The total dose estimated to be received by workers from decommissioning the PBRF is approximately 70 person-rem. The estimated doses to transportation workers and the public along transportation routes from transporting radioactive waste from PBRF decommissioning are estimated to be 5 and 0.5 person-rem, respectively. The greatest radiation exposure to the public would occur if accidents occurred, releasing airborne radioactive material. Hypothetical accidents at the PBRF with unfiltered releases (very conservative assumption) are estimated to result in a maximum estimated total effective dose equivalent (TEDE) of 0.53 mrem to the average member of the public.

### **1.2.2 Estimated Costs**

The estimated cost for decontaminating and decommissioning the PBRF, as described in Section 2.3, is provided in Appendix D. The cost estimate is summarized in Table D-1 of Appendix D. During the actual decommissioning planning phase, a detailed engineering cost estimate will be prepared.

*Note: Appendix D is considered NASA pre-decisional (ref. 5 USC §552(b)(5) and 10 CFR §2.790(a)(4) and (a)(5)). This information is provided only for the purpose of the NRC's review and approval of the PBRF Decommissioning Plan. Distribution should be limited to official government purposes only. Release without prior written consent of NASA Glenn Research Center is strictly prohibited.*

### **1.2.3 Availability of Funds**

This section provides, in accordance with 10 CFR 50.75(e)(1)(iv), a statement of intent for obtaining funds for decommissioning when necessary. The Director of the Glenn Research Center is responsible for developing and submitting all budgeting and legislative requests necessary to operate, maintain, and ensure the ultimate proper disposition of all Glenn Research Center facilities, including the licensed PBRF. The Center intends to make all appropriate and timely budget submissions necessary to ensure that required funds for decommissioning the PBRF, consistent with the schedule provided in Section 2.3.2, will be requested. The Center intends to advocate appropriate priority in requesting funding for the PBRF decommissioning project.

Certain aspects of the process by which funds are appropriated are not within the control of the licensee, including most notably, but not exclusively, the role of the United States Congress in appropriating the funds by which Federal agencies operate. A project of this magnitude will require a specific line item appropriation by Congress, and the licensee cannot make commitments on behalf of Congress. If Congress does not provide the requested funding levels, NASA will evaluate impacts to the decommissioning project and notify the NRC.

#### **1.2.4 Program Quality Assurance**

This section describes the organizational structure established to ensure that quality assurance (QA) measures are applied to the planning, dismantlement, radiological surveys, and material shipments. The goals of NASA's QA program for decommissioning the PBRF are as follows:

1. To prevent the uncontrolled release of radioactive materials offsite
2. To ensure that the radiation exposure to workers and to the public from decommissioning activities is below the limits established in 10 CFR Part 20
3. To meet the requirements for the packaging and shipping radioactive and hazardous wastes, primarily 10 CFR Part 61 and 49 CFR Parts 172 and 173
4. To ensure that work practices are controlled to comply with requirements, that waste is characterized and measured for proper disposition, and that the quality of radiological and chemical measurements is suitable to permit regulators to release the site
5. To prevent the unnecessary spread of radiological and hazardous contamination to uncontaminated areas.

NASA will base its QA program on the concept that the task managers will implement and support the QA program when performing daily management and supervisory functions. The NASA Decommissioning Project Manager and the project organization will ensure that each contractor's QA program meets the objectives and requirements of NASA's QA program. NASA will perform independent reviews, as necessary, to ensure contractor compliance. The program will ensure that decommissioning activities are performed in a manner to permit the termination of the PBRF license and the release of the site for unrestricted use.

##### **1.2.4.1 Quality Assurance**

QA will include planned and systematic actions necessary to provide acceptable confidence in program results. The program will include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Authority and Responsibility. Written definitions of authority, duties, and responsibilities of managerial, operation, and safety personnel; a defined organizational structure; assigned responsibility for review and approval of plans, specifications, designs, procedures, data, and reports; and assigned responsibility for procurement and oversight of services (e.g., analytical laboratory). Assigned authority and organizational responsibility to persons performing QA functions to allow them to identify quality problems; to initiate, recommend, and provide solutions; and to verify implementation of solutions.

- Personnel Training. An indoctrination and training program to provide staff trained and qualified in principles and techniques of jobs assigned, aware of the nature and goals of the QA aspects of the job, and able to demonstrate proficiency maintained by retraining and/or periodic performance reviews.
- Procedures. Written procedures for decommissioning activities (such as surveys, sampling activities, sample chain of custody, calibration of instruments, and equipment maintenance and calibration) that are prepared, reviewed, and approved by knowledgeable persons.
- Documentation and Data Management. Records to document the sequence of activities performed and to track and control a task in its progress from start to finish.
- Data Assessment. Review and analysis of data. Examining data for reasonableness and consistency and establishing general criteria for recognizing deficiencies.
- Root Cause Corrective Action Process. Process to investigate and correct recognized deficiencies and document corrective actions.

#### ***1.2.4.2 Quality Control***

The unique requirements for decommissioning the PBRF include the need to provide a consistent basis for preparing work packages, ensure procedural compliance, and provide reliable tool and equipment calibration. In addition, the strict traceability of radiologically contaminated materials shipped offsite for processing or disposal and associated records retention and management will support the waste management effort. Significant quality control activities will include

- Control and calibration of radiation measurement equipment
- Receipt inspections of packaging materials and shipping containers
- Work observations and radiation work package compliance
- Control of liquid waste discharges and airborne waste discharges to the environment and consideration of exposure to the public
- Control of waste handling operations and removal of waste from the site
- Control of site surveys
- Accuracy and completeness of project records.

#### ***1.2.4.3 Audits and Assessments***

To verify implementation of the QA program, planned and periodic audits and assessments will be performed by qualified individuals who do not have direct responsibilities in the areas being audited. Results will be documented and reviewed by management responsible for the area audited.

The PBRF Audit Team will be appointed by the Chairman of the Executive Safety Board. These members, generally from one to three in number, will be trained in QA procedures and will not be directly associated with the dismantling activities at the PBRF. The PBRF Audit Team will perform semiannual audits of the dismantling activities that cover all significant aspects of the dismantling, with special attention to the areas of compliance with procedures and recordkeeping.

A written report of each audit will be prepared, addressed to the Chairman of the Executive Safety Board, and copies will be sent to the NASA Decommissioning Project Manager, the Radiation Safety Officer, and the Chairman of the PBRF Decommissioning Safety Committee. The NASA Decommissioning Project Manager will take corrective action on reported audit deficiencies. The PBRF Audit Team leader or designee will be responsible for verifying that corrective actions have been completed.

## 2. DECOMMISSIONING ACTIVITIES

### 2.1 Decommissioning Alternative

NASA evaluated a range of alternatives for decommissioning the PBRF, from decontamination to allow free release according to 10 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 20.1402 to decontamination to allow restricted release according to 10 CFR 20.2403. NASA considered a SAFSTOR alternative, which allows for decay of short-lived radionuclides to reduce occupational exposure during decontamination. The PBRF has effectively been in a SAFSTOR mode since its shutdown in 1973. NASA also considered an ENTOMB alternative, which consists of isolating the radioactivity from the environment until the radioactivity has decayed to levels that permit unrestricted release of the facility. NASA selected the DECON alternative, where a facility is decontaminated to a level that permits release for unrestricted use and termination of the NRC license.

In general, the alternative selected by NASA includes three major steps. The first step for implementing the alternative will be to decontaminate the PBRF to levels that would allow unrestricted release according to the license termination criteria of 10 CFR 20 Subpart E (NRC 1998a). Decontamination will involve removal of the reactor tank and its internals, the material in the Hot Dry Storage Area, contaminated equipment and piping in PBRF buildings and structures, and contaminated soil in areas surrounding the PBRF. Waste generated during decontamination will be disposed of offsite. Decontamination will proceed until the residual contamination is below levels that would produce a total effective dose equivalent (TEDE) distinguishable from background that is less than 25 mrem/yr to the average member of the critical group (AMCG). Decontamination goals for surface soil, building surfaces, and subsurface material are presented in Section 2.2.3.1 of this plan. After decontamination, a final status survey will be conducted to verify that decontamination has been completed.

The second step for implementing the alternative will be to demolish decontaminated buildings and structures, as well as uncontaminated structures, within the PBRF fence and backfill belowgrade portions of buildings and structures with both demolition rubble having no radiological contamination and clean fill. Excavations also will be backfilled with clean fill.

The third step for implementing the alternative will be to prepare documentation (i.e., sampling and analytical information collected during the final status surveys) that demonstrates compliance with the license termination criteria of 10 CFR 20.1402. This documentation will be submitted to the NRC as part of a request to terminate the existing NRC licenses for the PBRF.

### 2.2 Facility Radiological Status

This section presents the operational history of the PBRF and summarizes the radiological status of the PBRF. Section 2.2.1 discusses routine and non-routine events that occurred during the PBRF's operational history that contributed to facility radioactivity and contamination levels. Section 2.2.2 describes the current radiological status of the PBRF and presents quantitative information. The major historical facts relevant to decommissioning are: there is no fuel in the reactors, there were a few suspected fuel cladding leaks during reactor operations, and the PBRF

previously underwent a program of waste removal and decontamination following shutdown. Although there were no confirmed fuel cladding leaks, any suspect fuel elements were removed as a precaution to minimize contamination of the reactor coolant system.

### **2.2.1 Facility Operating History**

Historical records do not indicate that fuel element cladding or fueled experiments failed and contributed to residual contamination. However, there are low levels of fission products in the canal and quadrant drains, hot sumps, Hot Retention Area, and Emergency Retention Basin. This contamination could have resulted from inclusions in the fuel element cladding (tramp uranium) or leakage from the suspected fuel element cladding.

Historical and characterization information (Teledyne Isotopes 1987) indicate the following causes of radioactive contamination from routine occurrences/operations:

- During reactor operations, irradiated fuel specimens were processed in the Hot Laboratory, so fission products were expected to be present in the hot cells, hot drains, hot sumps, etc. Characterization sampling showed that Cs-137 and Sr-90 are present in the hot cell drains and sumps.
- Portions of the biological shield nearest the reactor tank were contaminated by neutron activation.
- Operational tasks performed in the seven hot cells resulted in radioactive contamination in the Hot Laboratory air handling system and liquid drain system as well as on various equipment and building surfaces.
- There were many options for routing quadrant and canal water to and from the Hot Retention Area and Cold Retention Area, which resulted in low levels of contamination in these systems.
- The hot drain system collected water from all radioactively contaminated areas and is contaminated.
- During facility operations, it was suspected that the Cold Retention Basins leaked so a plastic liner was installed in 1969. Both basins were pumped dry during the 1985 characterization study, and some silt had accumulated both on the liner and in the bottoms of the basins. The concrete structures and underlying soil could also be contaminated.
- During operations, the Emergency Retention Basin was used for emergency storage of radioactively contaminated water, and the stored water could evaporate, percolate into the soil, decay off and be discharged, or be diluted and discharged. Therefore, the soil in the basin was expected to be contaminated. Characterization showed that the clay-lined base slowed or prevented contamination penetrating to the underlying soil.
- Low level contaminated water was discharged to the drainage system (drainage pipes and catch basins) which traveled through the Water Effluent Monitoring Station trench, and then discharged to the Pentolite Ditch. Radioactively contaminated silt collected in these areas.

Throughout the operating history there were no major releases of airborne radioactive materials which resulted in detectable variances with background as verified by an extensive onsite and offsite environmental monitoring program (Teledyne Isotopes 1987). Historical and characterization information (Teledyne Isotopes 1987) indicate the following causes of radioactive contamination from non-routine occurrences/operations or accidents/spills:

- During reactor operations, tritium was produced in the various beryllium components of the reactor core. Sampling confirmed that tritium was offgassing inside the reactor tank.
- Characterization sampling showed that Cs-134, Cs-137, and Sr-90 are present in the quadrant and canal drains, all hot sumps, resin pits, Hot Retention Area, and in the soil at the Emergency Retention Basin. This fission product contamination could have resulted from either a small clad failure or the recycling of treated water from the Hot Laboratory.
- The PBRF reactor had a poison injection safety system consisting of pressure injection of several gallons of gadolinium nitrate solution. This system was accidentally triggered on three occasions during operations; at least one of these occurred during criticality while neutron fluxes existed. The primary cooling water piping was promptly flushed and cleaned out. However, apparently, enough trace quantities of gadolinium nitrate persisted to become irradiated under neutron activation. As a result, Eu-152, Eu-154, and Eu-155 were found to be present in the primary cooling water piping. (Several nuclear reactions could have transformed the stable gadolinium isotopes to the radioisotopes of europium.) Contamination in the primary cooling water piping consists of a corrosion film deposit in the piping and loose crud and debris in components such as the strainer, pumps, valves, etc. This type of contamination found in the primary cooling water piping and components is expected to be present inside the reactor tank as well as the piping, components, pumps, tanks, etc., in the Primary Pump House.
- A low level radioactivity spill occurred during spent resin pumping near the Primary Pump House resin pits (see Figure 1-2), resulting in a small area of contaminated soil.
- A spill occurred adjacent to the Waste Handling Building concrete pad (see Figure 1-2), resulting in contaminated pavement and underlying soil.
- A spill occurred adjacent to the Water Effluent Monitoring Station trench, resulting in contaminated soil.
- During the 1985 characterization study, the polyethylene hot cell drain line in the hot pipe tunnel was found to be broken, leaking contamination onto the floor of the tunnel. The cause of failure was believed to be the expansion/contraction due to temperature difference together with possible failure due to radiation damage. The fracture was repaired and a strippable coating formulated to remove contamination from concrete surfaces was applied to the contaminated area, and was partially successful at removing the contamination.
- Spills occurred in a small location on the floors of Room 212 and 214 in the Reactor Office and Laboratory Building which penetrated the cracks between the floor tiles.

One of the conclusions from the 1985 characterization survey (Teledyne Isotopes 1987) was that there was no other apparent leakage of any radioactive contaminated material into sub-surface soils from either surface infiltration or leakage from deep structures.

## **2.2.2 Current Radiological Status of the Facility**

This section summarizes radiological characterization data for the facilities and areas at the PBRF. A major characterization survey for the entire PBRF was conducted in 1985, and a confirmatory survey was conducted in 1998. Section 2.2.2.1 summarizes the characterization information from the two surveys. The results from the two surveys indicate that most of the residual radioactivity at the PBRF is confined generally within equipment and piping, with limited environmental contamination. The reactor tank internals and waste in the Hot Dry Storage Area contain most of the radioactivity

Sections 2.2.2.2, 2.2.2.3, and 2.2.2.4 summarize radiological characterization information collected in 1985 (Teledyne Isotopes 1987) and in 1998 (Appendix A) for the major facilities, areas of environmental contamination, and contaminated support facilities, respectively, identified in Table 1-1. Section 2.2.2.5 briefly summarizes the nonradiological characterization of the PBRF. The major facilities, areas of environmental contamination, and contaminated support facilities in Table 1-1 would be classified as impacted areas for the final status survey, and the uncontaminated support facilities in Table 1-1 would be classified as non-impacted areas. A more detailed classification of these facilities as impacted (Class 1, 2, or 3) or non-impacted is presented in Section 4.1.4 of this plan.

The following discussion emphasizes relevant information for decommissioning planning and for demonstrating compliance with the license termination criteria of 10 CFR 20.1402, which has a standard for dose "distinguishable from background." Residual contamination in the PBRF buildings and environment is from activation products (i.e., H-3 and Co-60) and fission products (i.e., Cs-137 and Sr-90). The background concentrations of these radionuclides are essentially negligible. Radionuclides such as K-40 and Ra-226 are naturally occurring and were measured during the 1985 PBRF characterization. A summary of background radionuclide concentrations is presented in Section 2.2.2.1.

### **2.2.2.1 Radiological Characterization of the PBRF**

Two radiological characterization efforts have been conducted at the PBRF. A radiological survey of the PBRF was conducted in 1985. A confirmatory survey was conducted in September 1998 to verify the 1985 results and to provide additional isotopic data to use for estimating doses for license termination. During the 1998 confirmatory survey, buildings that were not expected to require decontamination were surveyed because contamination in these areas could impact decommissioning planning and costs. Two areas of environmental contamination, the Emergency Retention Basin and the Pentolite Ditch were also sampled to confirm the 1985 data.

Most of the inventory at the PBRF is contained in the reactor tank internals and the waste in the Hot Dry Storage Area. Tritium (H-3) is the primary radionuclide of concern in these areas. Outside of the reactor tank and Hot Dry Storage Area, the radionuclides of concern consist of both

mixed fission products and activated materials, with the primary radionuclides expected to be Co-60, Cs-137, and Sr-90.

### **1985 Characterization Survey**

The first survey in 1985 (Teledyne Isotopes 1987) characterized the buildings and ground surface around the PBRF. The floor and inside wall surfaces at all elevations (including basements) were surveyed in the Reactor Building, the Hot Laboratory, the Waste Handling Building, the Fan House, the Primary Pump House, the hot pipe tunnel, and the Reactor Office and Laboratory Building. The exterior surfaces of the containment vessel dome and roofs were not surveyed because both were resurfaced. The grounds within the fence line were also surveyed, including soil surfaces, paved areas, and the Pentolite Ditch from the PBRF to Plum Brook.

Background samples were collected and analyzed for eight categories of soil and six buildings that were not affected by plant operations (Teledyne Isotopes 1987). The background characterization consisted of measuring gross alpha and gross beta activity levels for all samples and direct radiation levels for a portion of the samples.

For soils, the majority of the samples had gross alpha and gross beta activity levels of 6 to 10 pCi/g and 30 to 40 pCi/g, respectively. Direct radiation levels were approximately 6  $\mu$ R/hr. These levels are consistent with background levels in other areas of the U.S. One set of background soil samples was collected from a location containing an outcropping of shale. These samples had average gross alpha and gross beta activity levels three times higher than the balance of the background soil samples.

For building surfaces, background characterization included collection of smear samples and static measurement of gross alpha and gross beta activity levels. The average gross alpha activity level was 3 cpm, which is consistent with gross alpha levels reported for similar materials. The average gross beta activity level was 30 cpm, which is lower than gross beta levels reported for similar materials. For typical equipment characteristics, the reported count rates correspond to gross alpha and gross beta activity levels of approximately 25 and 250 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup>, respectively.

The outdoor area and buildings were surveyed on grids for gross alpha and gross beta activity within the PBRF fence line. Direct radiation measurements were taken with a micro-roentgen meter. Surface and deep soil samples were analyzed for gross alpha and gross beta activity.

Isotopic analyses were performed on all samples containing significant quantities of radioactive material when those samples represented the systems or structures from which they came. Radioisotopes were identified by gamma pulse height analysis using germanium detectors networked in multichannel analyzer systems. Strontium-90 was analyzed by chemical separation of strontium, holding for ingrowth of the Y-90 daughter and subsequent counting and analysis. Low energy gamma or pure beta emitters, such as Fe-55 or Ni-63, were not measured during the isotopic analysis.

The 1985 characterization survey estimated the radiological inventory of the reactor tank and internals. Three core samples from the biological shield were analyzed for gross alpha and gross beta activity; some portions of the core samples were analyzed for Co-60. Piping and drain

systems were also characterized. External contamination and direct dose rates were measured and corrosion films were collected. The water handling systems, including the Hot Retention Area and Cold Retention Basins, also were analyzed. External contamination and direct dose rates were measured and sludge samples were collected and analyzed.

The major conclusions from the 1985 characterization survey were

- The majority of the radionuclide inventory at the PBRF is in two locations: (1) the reactor tank and its internals and (2) in stored waste in the Hot Dry Storage Area (in the Hot Laboratory).
- Most of the contamination inside the buildings is inside piping and equipment. Other than the internal piping and equipment contamination, residual contamination in the facilities is limited to locations where piping or equipment has leaked (e.g. the hot pipe tunnel and evaporator in the Waste Handling Building).
- In the reactor tank (exclusive of reactor internals) and the primary cooling system, Co-60 was the dominant gamma-emitting nuclide based on analysis of corrosion film samples. Europium isotopes detected were associated with activation of gadolinium from the injection system during reactor operations. The absence of fission products in the primary cooling system is consistent with the historical information.
- The isotope Co-60 and fission products Cs-137 and Sr-90 were detected in the canal and quadrant drains, hot sumps, resin pits, Hot Retention Area, and Cold Retention Basins.
- Areas of environmental contamination contain Co-60 and fission products.

### **1998 Confirmatory Characterization Survey**

In 1998, a confirmatory radiological survey (documented in Appendix A) was conducted at portions of the PBRF to support the planning for decommissioning and license termination activities. For the confirmatory survey, only the easily detected radionuclides were analyzed (by gamma spectroscopy) and quantified. As a result, beta emitters and radionuclides that are difficult to detect (i.e., Sr-90, Fe-55, Ni-63, and other low energy beta emitters) were not identified and quantified. The analysis for the primary gamma emitters (i.e., Co-60, Cs-137, and europium isotopes) was determined to be adequate to verify the 1985 characterization data. Where possible, the sampling techniques and locations used for the 1998 survey duplicated those of the 1985 survey to ensure consistency. However, because exact locations could not be duplicated, the sampling results from the 1998 investigation were compared with the 1985 investigation results primarily to identify any significant differences. Appendix A presents a description of the 1998 confirmatory survey and the survey results.

The results from the 1998 confirmatory survey generally confirmed the findings from the 1985 survey. Gamma scans of outdoor areas showed exposure rates of 5 to 10  $\mu\text{R/hr}$ , which are typical for background levels. The 1998 confirmatory survey examined the Emergency Retention Basin, Water Effluent Monitoring Station, Pentolite Ditch, PBRF grounds, PBRF paved areas, catch basins, Cold Retention Area, Reactor Building outside the reactor containment vessel, Reactor Office and Laboratory Building, Service Equipment Building, Fan House, Waste Handling

Building, and the cold service tunnels. The areas were surveyed to measure gross beta activity (pCi/100 cm<sup>2</sup>) and direct radiation exposure rates. In addition, soil, sediment, and concrete samples were analyzed for gamma-emitting radionuclides.

In general, the 1998 confirmatory survey confirmed the contaminated and uncontaminated areas identified during the 1985 characterization survey. The 1998 confirmatory survey identified six additional contaminated areas: four laboratories (Rooms 207, 209, 210, and 213A) in the Reactor Office and Laboratory Building; an area of contamination on the -4.6-m (-15-ft) basement level of the Reactor Building; and on the PBRF pavement near the entrance to the Reactor Building. Within the Emergency Retention Basin, the 1998 confirmatory survey identified a high Cs-137 concentration of 200 pCi/g while the 1985 high concentration of Cs-137 was 90 pCi/g. These findings are not expected to impact the degree of remediation required at these areas.

The gamma characterization information from the 1998 survey shows that the dominant gamma sources are Cs-137 and Co-60. Other gamma-emitting nuclides are only small contributors (less than 1 percent). With the exception of a single sample from canal F, gamma activity is dominated by Cs-137 at all PBRF areas (e.g., environmental contamination, sumps, floors in the Reactor Building). In canal F, the activity is dominated by Co-60.

### **2.2.2.2 Major Facilities at the PBRF**

This section summarizes radiological characterization information for the major facilities at the PBRF (identified in Table 1-1).

#### **Reactor Building (Building 1111)**

The majority of the radioactivity at the Reactor Building is contained inside the reactor tank. The biological shield and several piping systems are also radioactively contaminated. Radioactivity was detected on the surfaces of the quadrants, canals, and drains. The following paragraphs summarize characterization data for the parts of the Reactor Building.

#### **Reactor Tank and Internal Components**

The reactor tank has the highest radionuclide inventory of all the areas at the PBRF. Radionuclide inventory estimates of the reactor tank and its internal components were presented in the 1980 environmental report (NASA 1980a). To calculate the radionuclide inventory of the reactor tank, separate calculations were performed for each of the major components of the core box and beryllium reflector pieces (refer to Appendix A of the 1980 environmental report [NASA 1980a]). Large pieces, such as through tubes, thermal shields, and the reactor tank, were analyzed as several segments. The calculations were built on estimates of integrated neutron exposure, activation cross section for the nuclides of interest in each component, the radioisotope half-life, and the decay time. Table 2-1 identifies the isotope of interest (first column), the June 30, 1978, inventory estimates (second column), and the 1978 inventories decayed to December 31, 2003 (third column). (Year 2003 was assumed because this is a time during which decontamination of the PBRF and waste removal is currently expected to occur.) As shown in Table 2-1, H-3 dominates the inventory.

**Table 2-1. Estimated Inventory in the Reactor Tank and Internal Components**

Nuclide	Inventory (curies) as of 6/30/1978 <sup>a</sup>	Inventory (curies) as of 12/31/2003 <sup>b</sup>
H-3	156,800	37,266
Co-60	2,640	92
Fe-55	7,340	10.5
Ni-63	45	37
Ni-59	0.5	0.5
Zn-65	115	0.0
Al-26	1.4	1.4
Cd-113m	0.8	0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>166,943</b>	<b>37,408</b>

a. From NASA (1980a).

b. Calculated by decaying the 1978 inventory estimates to the year 2003.

### ***Reactor Primary Cooling Water System and Primary Cooling Shutdown System.***

Two corrosion film samples from valves in the primary cooling water system were analyzed in 1985. The two samples showed similar levels of activity (256 and 375 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup>). A gamma pulse height analysis conducted on the sample with higher activity identified the specific nuclides Co-60, Eu-152, Eu-154, and Eu-155. No fission products, such as Cs-137, were identified. Cobalt-60 had the highest activity of the gamma-emitting radionuclides. The lack of cesium is consistent with the historical information, indicating that there was no fuel leakage. The presence of europium is suspected to be from irradiated gadolinium that was accidentally injected by a safety system (Teledyne Isotopes 1987). Except for special equipment (e.g., strainers and some valves), 1985 exposure rates from piping and equipment in this area were less than 30 mR/hr.

### ***Reactor Biological Shield***

The biological shield surrounding the reactor tank was activated by neutrons that entered the concrete and interacted with elements. Three core samples were taken from the biological shield in 1985 and analyzed for gross alpha, gross beta, and gamma emitters. The samples were analyzed for europium, but only Co-60 was detected. The average Co-60 concentration in the biological shield within 25 cm (10 in.) of the reactor tank was 17.5 pCi/g. A sample of the reinforcing steel in the concrete was also analyzed for gross alpha, gross beta, and gamma emitting nuclides. Cobalt-60 was detected at a concentration of 325 pCi/g in the reinforcing steel.

### ***Reactor Quadrants and Canals, and Their Pump-out and Recirculation Systems***

The 1985 characterization data for the quadrants, canals, and their pump-out recirculation systems included alpha- and beta-gamma radiation measurements of the building wells, direct radiation readings, and collected crud samples. The characterization showed

- Reliable direct radiation measurements from the canals and quadrants were difficult to obtain because of the radiation field from the reactor tank and biological shield.
- The average concentration of loose alpha contamination, loose beta-gamma contamination, and direct radiation readings in the canals was approximately 2 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup>, 1000 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup>, and 0.1 mR/hr, respectively.
- Overall, the pump-out and recirculation system were contaminated internally, but they have little or no external contamination. External dose rates from piping and valves ranged from 0.01 to 0.6 mrem/hr. Drain crud samples contained 0.1 to 1 pCi/g of gross alpha activity and up to 20,000 pCi/g of gross beta activity. Cobalt-60 was the dominant gamma-emitting radionuclide.
- Direct radiation measurements in the canals ranged from 0.001 to 0.3 mR/hr.
- Deep underground soil samples were collected, and the analytical results verified that the canals (G and K) did not leak contaminated water into the ground.

As part of the 1998 confirmatory survey, a 10 cm (4-in.) diameter concrete core sample approximately 8 cm (3 in.) deep was taken from canal F, located outside the containment that connects to both the mock-up reactor and the canals going into the Hot Laboratory. Cesium-137 and Co-60 were detected at concentrations of 2.7 pCi/g and 156 pCi/g, respectively.

### ***Reactor Building Rooms***

The Reactor Building rooms were surveyed in both 1985 and 1998. Loose and fixed contamination and direct radiation measurements both inside and outside the containment vessel in 1985 showed

- Inside the containment vessel, loose alpha contamination levels ranged from 0 to 5 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup>, loose beta-gamma contamination levels ranged from 0 to almost 200 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup>, and direct radiation readings ranged from 0.006 to a maximum of 500 mR/hr in the sub-pile room. The average direct radiation reading in the other areas ranged from 0.01 to 0.045 mR/hr.
- Outside the containment vessel, loose alpha contamination levels ranged from 0 to 5 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup>, loose beta-gamma contamination levels ranged from 0 to almost 350 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup>, and direct radiation readings ranged from 0.005 to 0.230 mR/hr.

The Reactor Building rooms outside the containment vessel were also surveyed during the 1998 confirmatory survey. A total of 105 direct beta measurements and smears were taken along with a single concrete core sample at the -4.6-m (-15-ft) elevation where a hot spot was identified at the -15 ft level near the east wall (location RB056). One of the 105 beta measurements had a

count rate of about 43,000 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup>. Another measurement had a count rate of about 7000 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup>. The remaining 103 beta measurements had count rates less than 2000 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup>, and the average rate was about 100 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup>.

A 10 cm (4-in.) diameter concrete core sample approximately 8 cm (3 in.) deep was taken at the hot spot (43,000 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup>). Cobalt-60 and Cs-137 were detected at concentrations of 0.1 pCi/g and 0.2 pCi/g, respectively.

### ***Hot Drains, Sumps, Pumps, and Valves***

The 1985 characterization data for the hot drain system included alpha and beta-gamma radiation measurements, direct radiation readings, and collected crud samples. Direct radiation readings from the hot drain system sumps ranged from 0.007 to 2 mR/hr. Ten of the 12 sumps had average readings of 1.2 mR/hr. Crud samples from the hot sumps had elevated alpha and gamma radiation readings, with alpha activity levels ranging from 15 to 9500 pCi/g, and gamma activity levels ranging from 580 to 130,000 pCi/g. The dominant gamma-emitting radionuclides were Co-60 and Cs-137.

### **Hot Laboratory (Building 1112)**

Most of the radioactive contamination in the Hot Laboratory is from stored waste in the Hot Dry Storage Area. Contamination has also been identified in the hot cells and rooms surfaces.

### ***Hot Dry Storage Area***

The waste in the Hot Dry Storage Area of the Hot Laboratory has the second highest estimated radionuclide inventory of all the contaminated areas at the PBRF. This waste consists of radioactively contaminated items similar to that in the reactor tank (e.g., beryllium pieces and control rod sections). Estimates of radionuclide inventories in the Hot Dry Storage Area were presented in the 1980 environmental report (NASA 1980a) (and in Teledyne Isotopes 1987). The method for estimating the inventories is discussed in Appendix A of the 1980 environmental report and involves separate calculations for each of the major components. The calculations were built on estimates of integrated neutron exposure, activation cross section for the nuclides in the various components, the half-life of the active isotopes, and the decay time. These inventory estimates, as of June 30, 1978, are presented in the second column of Table 2-2. The 1978 inventories were decayed to December 31, 2003, a time during which decontamination of the PBRF and waste removal is currently expected to occur (third column). As shown in Table 2-2, H-3 dominates the inventory.

During the 1985 characterization, thermoluminescent dosimeters (TLDs) were lowered into the Hot Dry Storage Area to obtain dose rate measurements. No smear samples, which indicate surface contamination levels, were taken inside the Hot Dry Storage Area.

**Table 2-2. Estimated Radionuclide Inventory of the Waste in the Hot Dry Storage Area**

<b>Nuclide<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Inventory (curies) as of 6/30/1978<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>Inventory (curies) as of 12/31/2003<sup>c</sup></b>
H-3	34,600	8,223
Co-60	16,100	559
Fe-55	14,600	16
Zn-65	1	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>65,301</b>	<b>8,798</b>

- a. Other nuclides were calculated to be less than 1 percent of the total.
- b. From NASA (1980a).
- c. Calculated by decaying the 1978 inventory estimates to the year 2003.

### ***Hot Cells***

The seven hot cells in the Hot Laboratory were surveyed in 1985 using instrument scans and wipe samples. Loose alpha contamination in the cells ranged from 0 to 370 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup>, and loose beta-gamma contamination ranged from 200 to 173,000 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup>. Direct radiation ranged from 1 to 450 mR/hr. Isotopic analyses of wipe samples with the highest contamination levels indicated that Co-60 and Cs-137 dominate the measured activity.

### **Rooms**

The rooms in the Hot Laboratory include the decontamination room, repair shop, storage room, mezzanine, cold work area, hot work area, and hot handling area. The floors, walls, and ceilings of the rooms were surveyed in 1985 using instrument scans and wipe samples. The 1985 characterization data show that contamination levels in the Hot Laboratory rooms, exclusive of the decontamination room, were similar to those in the Reactor Building rooms outside of the containment vessel. For areas other than the decontamination room, the loose alpha contamination ranged from 0 to 8 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup> and loose beta-gamma contamination ranged from 0 to 18,852 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup>. Direct radiation levels in these same areas ranged from 0.003 to 1 mR/hr. The decontamination room had loose alpha contamination as high as 208 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup>, loose beta-gamma contamination as high as 337,000 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup>, and dose rates as high as 8 R/hr.

#### ***2.2.2.3 Support Facilities at the PBRF***

Radiological characterization information for the contaminated support facilities at the PBRF (identified in Table 1-1 and described in Section 1.2) are briefly discussed in the following paragraphs. The support facilities are smaller and have lower levels of contamination than the major facilities described in Section 2.2.2.2. The contamination generally is in readily removable equipment or in areas that are more simply decontaminated. The structures themselves have limited contamination. A summary of characterization information for the contaminated support facilities is presented in Table 2-3.

**Table 2-3. Summary of Survey Results for Support Facilities at the PBRF**

Building/ Structure	Summary of 1985 Characterization Survey Results	1998 Confirmatory Survey	
		No. of Survey Measurements	Results
Reactor Office and Laboratory Building (1141)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loose alpha contamination ranging from 0 to 4 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup></li> <li>Loose gamma-beta contamination ranging from 0 to 137 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup></li> <li>Average direct radiation less than 0.02 mR/hr</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>120 direct beta measurements</li> <li>120 smears</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two measurements were about 50,000 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup></li> <li>Three measurements were between 5000 and 10,000 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup></li> <li>All others were less than 2000 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>
Primary Pump House (1134)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loose alpha contamination ranging from 0 to 2 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup></li> <li>Loose gamma-beta contamination ranging from 0 to 29 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup></li> <li>Direct radiation about 0.01 mR/hr</li> </ul>	None	None
Fan House (1132)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loose alpha contamination ranging from 0 to 2 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup></li> <li>Loose gamma-beta contamination ranging from 0 to 102 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup></li> <li>Direct radiation less than 1 mR/hr</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>60 direct beta measurements</li> <li>60 smears</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One measurement was about 7000 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup></li> <li>All others were less than 2500 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>
Waste Handling Building (1133)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loose alpha contamination ranging from 0 to 5 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup></li> <li>Loose gamma-beta contamination ranging from 0 to 11797 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup> (the highest value is in the basement; the next highest value is 2000 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup>)</li> <li>Direct radiation ranges from 0.02 to than 3 mR/hr</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>60 direct beta measurements</li> <li>60 smears</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One measurement was about 7000 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup></li> <li>Most others were less than 2500 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>
Hot Retention Area (1155)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tanks are contaminated; concrete vault contamination was less than the levels in Regulatory Guide 1.86 (USAEC 1974)</li> <li>Direct radiation ranged from 0.044 to 2.8 mR/hr</li> </ul>	None	None
Cold Retention Basins (1154)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alpha contamination ranged from 0 to 3 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup></li> <li>Beta contamination ranged from 25 to 1061 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup></li> <li>Direct radiation less than 0.1 mR/hr</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8 direct beta measurements</li> <li>8 smears</li> </ul>	Wipe samples range from 1000 to 5000 dpm/100 cm <sup>2</sup>
Hot pipe tunnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activity primarily in the 4-in. polyethylene piping. Contact dose rates range from 6 to 2200 mR/hr</li> <li>Loose alpha contamination ranged from 0 to 17 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup></li> <li>Loose beta-gamma contamination ranged from 0 to 47,363 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup> with a hot spot from line leak</li> <li>Direct radiation ranged from 2 to 85 mR/hr</li> </ul>	None	None

The highest contamination levels found in the support facilities during the 1985 survey were in the hot pipe tunnels (shown in Figure 1-2). The piping in the tunnel, which was used to handle radioactive liquid and gasses, contains radioactive contamination, and the tunnel floor is radioactively contaminated in one area.

The next highest contamination levels were in an evaporator in the basement of the Waste Handling Building (1133). Other equipment and piping in this building contain radioactive contamination, and surface contamination has been identified throughout the building. In the Fan House (1132), equipment (e.g., ducts and piping) contains measurable radioactive contamination, and contamination has been identified throughout the basement floor. In the Reactor Office and Laboratory Building (1141), radioactive contamination has been found on laboratory hoods, in piping, and on the floors of some of the radiochemistry laboratories. In the Primary Pump House (1134), equipment and piping, as well as pits and sumps, contain radioactive contamination.

At the Hot Retention Area (1155), the storage tanks and associated piping and equipment are radioactively contaminated, and low levels of contamination (i.e., less than the levels in Regulatory Guide 1.86 [USAEC 1974], according to Teledyne Isotopes 1987) have been identified in the concrete vault. At the Cold Retention Basins (1154), the basin liners, concrete structures, and the silt deposits on the liners are radioactively contaminated. Underground soil samples collected in 1985 verified that the Hot Retention Area and Cold Retention Basins did not leak contaminated water into the ground.

The areas examined in the 1998 survey generally confirmed the results. For the Fan House, Waste Handling Building, and Reactor Office and Laboratory Building, the 1998 results are consistent with the 1985 results. In general, the more extensive 1985 survey and the 1998 verification survey showed that there was only localized contamination in the support structures.

#### **2.2.2.4 Environmental Contamination at the PBRF**

Areas of environmental contamination include (1) inground or earthen structures or (2) soil that was contaminated from past operations or non-routine occurrences (e.g., spills) (see Table 1-1). Radiological characterization information for these areas is summarized in the following paragraphs.

##### **Emergency Retention Basin**

Surface soil in the Emergency Retention Basin (i.e., from 0 to 15 cm [0 to 6 in] below the surface) and soil from 15 to 30 cm (6 to 12 in.) below the surface in specific areas is radioactively contaminated.

The 1985 characterization of the Emergency Retention Basin included collecting shallow (0 to 3.0-m [0 to 10-ft]) cores, near-surface (5 to 15-cm [2 to 6-in.]) soil samples, and surface (0 to 5-cm [0 to 2-in.]) soil samples. The shallow cores were analyzed for gross alpha and gross beta activity and the results indicated that the residual activity was confined to the upper 15 cm (6 in.) of soil. Near-surface soil samples collected from the Emergency Retention Basin indicated that gross beta activity averaged 78 pCi/g. Surface soil samples collected at locations where the near-surface samples showed the highest activity levels were also analyzed for gross beta activity.

Radionuclide concentrations in the surface soil samples were 10 to 20 times greater than that in the near-surface samples.

The near-surface samples having the highest activity also were analyzed to determine the isotopic distribution. The average Co-60, Cs-137, and Sr-90 concentrations in the near surface samples were 22, 32, and 2.4 pCi/g, respectively.

During the 1998 confirmatory survey, a gamma scan was conducted (about 1.3 cm [0.5 in.] from the surface) and five soil samples were collected. The gamma scan showed peak exposure rates of about 50  $\mu$ R/hr, with average exposure rates ranging from 20 to 30  $\mu$ R/hr. These exposure rates are generally similar, but they are slightly less than those reported in the 1985 survey. The soil samples taken in 1985 were from the southern portion of the Emergency Retention Basin (the most contaminated area in the 1985 survey). The decay-adjusted 1985 concentrations and the 1998 concentrations are within a factor of 3 of each other. The differences could be due to the different sample locations and the contamination not being homogenous. The lower concentrations at the 0 to 5-cm (0 to 2-in.) depth and the higher concentrations at the 5 to 15-cm (2 to 6-in.) depth may indicate downward contaminant migration.

### **Drainage System**

The drainage system consists of a series of open ditches, covered culverts, and catch basins (ditches and culverts are shown as dotted lines on Figure 1-2). Underground piping and silt deposits in the catch basins are radioactively contaminated.

The 1985 characterization effort reported that accumulated silt in the catch basins had gross beta activity ranging from 7 to 330 pCi/g, with an average of 44 pCi/g. Depths and areas of contamination were not reported.

The catch basins were reexamined in the 1998 confirmatory survey. The beta survey showed that one sample had a maximum concentration of 5000 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup>, and the remaining samples had an average concentration of less than 1200 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup>. The 1998 gross beta activity measurements are on the order of 15 to 20 pCi/g, similar to the average 1985 measurements (44 pCi/g). The 1998 sampling effort also showed that the activity in the catch basins is predominantly naturally occurring K-40, at concentrations ranging from 7 to 14 pCi/g. The concentration of Cs-137 and Co-60 ranged from 1 to 11 pCi/g and from 1 to 5 pCi/g, respectively.

### **Water Effluent Monitoring Station (Building 1192)**

The Water Effluent Monitoring Station includes a metal building and a concrete trench with metal gates and flumes. The trench itself, silt entrapped behind the flumes, and an area of soil adjacent to the trench are radioactively contaminated.

The 1985 characterization survey measured contamination in the Water Effluent Monitoring Station building and in the silt in the Water Effluent Monitoring Station trench. The 1998 confirmatory survey also measured concrete surfaces in the building and found contamination levels consistent with those measured in 1985. Isotopic analysis of gamma emitters in the 1998 survey (excluding naturally occurring gamma emitters) indicated the dominant nuclides were

Cs-137 (4 to 11 pCi/g) and Co-60 (1 to 4 pCi/g). Table 2-4 compares the 1985 and 1998 survey results for the Water Effluent Monitoring Station building.

**Table 2-4. Summary of Survey Results for the Water Effluent Monitoring Station (1192)**

Building/ Structure	Summary of 1985 Characterization Survey Results	1998 Confirmatory Survey	
		No. of Survey Measurements	Results
Water Effluent Monitoring Station (1192)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loose alpha contamination ranging from 0 to 2 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• Loose beta-gamma contamination ranging from 0 to 48 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• Direct radiation levels ranging from 0.004 to 0.04 mR/hr</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 direct beta measurements</li> <li>• 8 smears</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three measurements were about 15,000 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• All others were less than 5000 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>

### Pentolite Ditch

The Pentolite Ditch received all water from the Water Effluent Monitoring Station. Up to 30 cm (12 in.) of silt and soil in some areas along the Pentolite Ditch are radioactively contaminated. The contamination occurs primarily at the western end (near the Water Effluent Monitoring Station outfall), with a smaller amount near the eastern end (near the confluence with Plum Brook).

For the 1985 characterization, the Pentolite Ditch was divided into 9.1- × 9.1-m (30- × 30-ft) grids. A contact beta-gamma survey was performed at the center and four surrounding points in each grid. A silt sample was then collected at the center point and a soil sample was collected at the surrounding point that had the highest contamination level. The survey results indicated that portions of the ditch nearest the Emergency Retention Basin (i.e., the west end) and nearest Plum Brook (i.e., the east end) were contaminated with higher levels of contamination than in the other portions of the ditch. Samples from four shallow (3 m [10-ft]) cores indicated that contamination was confined to depths less than 15 cm (6 in).

Sampling indicated that soil from the bottom and the banks of the Pentolite Ditch had average gross beta activities of 40 and 110 pCi/g, respectively.

During the 1998 confirmatory survey, eight sediment samples were collected along the Pentolite Ditch. The analytical results showed that the total activity in the samples ranged from 10 to 30 pCi/g. Most of the activity is from natural K-40; the residual activity from Cs-137 ranged from 2 to 15 pCi/g and from Co-60 from 0 to 1 pCi/g. The 1998 average concentration (about 20 pCi/g) is lower than that measured in 1985 (75 pCi/g). This decrease could be due to several factors, including decay, fewer sample locations, and irregular distribution of the contamination.

## Areas of Contaminated Pavement

Two areas of known low-level waste spills have been identified: one near the Waste Handling Building (1133) concrete pad and one in the vicinity of the Primary Pump House (Building 1134) resin pits (see Figure 1-2). The 1985 characterization effort involved collecting deep and shallow cores near the concrete pad at the Waste Handling Building. Samples from the cores showed radiological contamination to a depth of 1.8 m (6 ft). At the same location, gross beta activity measurements were 1500 pCi/g at a depth of 0.3 m (1 ft) and 100 pCi/g at a depth of 1.8 m (6 ft). Gross alpha activity measurements at the same depths were 90 and 7 pCi/g, respectively. No radiological concentration was reported for the second spill area in the vicinity of the Primary Pump House (1134) resin pits. The 1998 survey confirmed the presence of contamination near the Waste Handling Building, but no contamination was detected at the previously identified spill area near the Primary Pump House.

During the 1998 survey, an additional contaminated location was identified on the pavement near the entrance to the Reactor Building, where total beta activity up to 42,000 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup> was measured.

## Facilities Expected to be Clean

Based on the 1985 and 1998 characterization information, several support facilities within the PBRF fence were determined to be uncontaminated (non-impacted areas). These facilities are

- Reactor Service Equipment Building (1131)
- Reactor Gas Services Building (1135)
- Reactor Compressor Building (1136)
- Reactor Substation (1161)
- Reactor Security Building (1191).

Based on historical knowledge, at the time of the 1985 characterization survey, the following facilities were considered to be uncontaminated and were not surveyed. This assessment was not revisited as part of the 1998 confirmatory survey:

- Cold pipe tunnel
- Reactor water tower (1151)
- Reactor sludge basins (1153)
- Reactor precipitator (1157)
- Reactor Cryogenic and Gas Supply Farm and Building (1195 & 9837)
- Reactor Gas Storage Structure (1196).

These facilities will be surveyed as part of the final status survey described in Section 4.

### **2.2.2.5 Non-Radiological Waste Characterization of the PBRF**

Asbestos and asbestos/fiberglass insulation has been identified at the PBRF. This asbestos material is on various pipes, tanks, vents, etc. Some of this material is externally contaminated and internally clean, and some is both externally and internally contaminated. The asbestos material is located in the Reactor Building (1111), Hot Laboratory (1112), Fan House (1132), Waste Handling Building (1133), and Reactor Office and Laboratory Building (1141). Detailed quantity estimates of asbestos are presented in Teledyne Isotopes (1987).

Friable lead paint is also located throughout PBRF buildings, primarily on walls and ceilings. Friable lead paint is located in the same buildings as the asbestos material.

Small quantities of other non-radioactive waste (e.g., mercury in switches) is expected to be generated and will be identified and managed during the early phases of decommissioning.

### **2.2.3 Release Criteria**

Consistent with 10 CFR Part 20, decommissioning means reducing residual radioactivity to a level that permits termination of the license and release of the site for unrestricted use. The PBRF license would be terminated after NASA demonstrates that the site meets the criteria for decommissioning specified in 10 CFR Part 20, Subpart E, "Radiological Criteria for License Termination." The radiological criteria for unrestricted use are identified in 10 CFR 20.1402, which specifies two criteria: (1) the TEDE from residual radioactivity that is distinguishable from background radiation must not be greater than 25 mrem/yr to the AMCG and (2) residual radioactivity levels must be ALARA. This section describes methods for dose assessment, describes methods to demonstrate that levels of residual contamination are ALARA, and presents results that will be used in the decision framework applied to PBRF decommissioning. Results include derived concentration guidelines (DCGLs) and cost-benefit relationships for specific decommissioning activities.

Section 2.2.3.1 presents the proposed methodology for establishing the residual contamination levels that would result in a TEDE to the AMCG that is less than 25 mrem/yr. These levels, which are expressed as radionuclide concentrations, are referred to as DCGLs in Draft Regulatory Guide DG-4006, "Demonstrating Compliance With the Radiological Criteria for License Termination" (NRC 1998a). As recommended in Draft Regulatory Guide DG-4006, this section presents the methodology to obtain the NRC's approval before remediating the site and conducting the final radiation survey. Section 2.2.3.1 presents the estimated DCGLs for surface soils, building surfaces, and subsurface structures at the PBRF. The DCGLs will be used during the final radiation survey to demonstrate that the residual radioactivity at the site will result in a TEDE to the AMCG of less than 25 mrem/yr. According to NUREG-1549, "Using Decision Methods for Dose Assessment to Comply with Radiological Criteria for License Termination" (NRC 1998b), a licensee can demonstrate compliance with the dose criterion either by using a generic screening model or by using site-specific analyses. Site-specific analyses have been applied to develop DCGLs for PBRF, and generic screening values are presented to provide perspective.

Section 2.2.3.2 presents the proposed methodology for demonstrating that residual contamination levels are ALARA. The methodology follows the guidance in Draft Regulatory Guide DG-4006 (NRC 1998a) and involves comparing the costs and benefits of postulated decommissioning actions. Options for using DCGLs for specific portions of the PBRF and the timing of the final status survey are described in Section 2.3.1. Section 2.3.1 also identifies the criteria that will be used for selecting DCGLs for specific portions of the PBRF.

Preliminary ALARA analysis results indicate that complying with the criterion of a TEDE to the AMCG of 25 mrem/yr will be more restrictive than the criterion that residual radioactivity must be ALARA.

### 2.2.3.1 Derived Concentration Guidelines

This section presents (1) the methods used to calculate DCGLs (the level of residual contamination that would produce a TEDE of 25 mrem/yr to the AMCG) and (2) the results of dose assessments for the PBRF to show the rate of dose decrease over time. DCGLs were estimated using existing characterization data. A characterization survey of the PBRF was completed in 1985 and confirmed in 1998 as described in Teledyne Isotopes (1987) and Appendix A of this plan, respectively. On the basis of these surveys, residual radioactivity at PBRF has been categorized as surface soil, building surface, or subsurface structure residual contamination. The subsurface structures are primarily the biological shield, canals and quadrants, and embedded piping located in the Reactor Building (Building 1111). The definitions and locations of these types of residual contamination are summarized in Table 2-5.

**Table 2-5. Types of Residual Contamination at the PBRF**

<b>Residual Contamination Type</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>PBRF Site Areas*</b>
Surface soil	Residual contamination of soil within 3 m (10 ft) of the surface that could result in a dose to a residential /agricultural intruder.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency Retention Basin</li> <li>• Pentolite Ditch</li> <li>• Spill area adjacent to Waste Handling Building (1133) concrete pad</li> <li>• Clean rubble used as fill</li> <li>• Cold Retention Basins (1154)</li> </ul>
Buildings and subsurface structures	Fixed and removable contamination on building floors, walls, or ceilings that could result in a dose to building reuser.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reactor Office and Laboratory Building (1141)</li> <li>• Reactor Building (1111)</li> <li>• Hot Laboratory (1112)</li> </ul>
Subsurface structures and building debris	Residual contamination associated with below grade walls, shields, and canals at depth greater than 3 m (10 ft) that could result in a dose to residential/agricultural intruder.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remaining subsurface structures and building debris used as backfill</li> </ul>

\* Numbers in parentheses are the building numbers (refer to Figure 1-2 for locations).

The characterization surveys indicated that surface soils having residual contamination are present at the Emergency Retention Basin, Pentolite Ditch, Waste Handling Building (Building 1133) concrete pad, and at the entrance to the Reactor Building (1111). Isotopic analysis indicated the radionuclides of concern for surface soil were Co-60, Sr-90, and Cs-137. Low levels of contamination were identified in rooms located on the second floor of the Reactor Office and Laboratory Building (Building 1141), while higher levels were identified in the Reactor Building (Building 1111) subsurface structures. Estimates of residual contamination levels have been developed based on available PBRF characterization data and on measurements at similar facilities (Abel et al. 1986; Smith et al. 1978). Based on these data, the radionuclides of concern for the PBRF are listed in Table 2-6.

**Table 2-6. Radionuclides of Concern for the PBRF**

Radionuclide	Surface Soil	Building Surfaces	Subsurface Structures
H-3		✓	
C-14			✓*
Fe-55		✓	✓
Co-60	✓	✓	✓
Ni-59			✓
Ni-63		✓	✓
Sr-90	✓	✓	✓
Tc-99			✓*
Cs-137	✓	✓	✓
Eu-152			✓
Eu-154			✓

\* Indicates expected nuclides from similar facilities Abel et al. 1986; Smith et al. 1978).

DCGL estimates are based on the analysis of scenarios that could reasonably occur if a site is released for unrestricted use. A scenario is defined as a set of release modes, receptor metabolic and behavioral characteristics, environmental transport pathways, and exposure modes that result in dose to an individual or population. The dose analysis performed for this decommissioning plan assumes the PBRF site is released for unrestricted use and evaluates the case of members of the public using the site. In actuality, NASA has no plans to sell property after license termination, so realistic receptors would be members of the public located offsite and NASA employees working onsite after license termination. Thus, unrestricted use of the PBRF site is a conservative scenario and bounds the realistically expected impacts.

NRC has published guidance on methods for dose analysis supporting license termination under 10 CFR Part 20 (NUREG/CR-5512 [Kennedy and Strenge 1992], Draft Regulatory Guide 4006 [NRC 1998a] and NUREG-1549 [NRC 1998b]). The guidance allows using either generic screening or site-specific dose assessment in the decision framework. Under the generic screening approach, NRC has identified pathways, scenarios, models, and model parameter values and has provided analysis results in the form of levels of contamination consistent with the 10 CFR Part 20,

Subpart E, dose criteria. The pathways and scenarios constitute the residential farmer and building reuse scenarios. The NRC generic screening analysis of the residential farmer scenario is based on the assumption that all contamination has been distributed into the upper 15 cm (6 in.) of soil. Among the options presented for site-specific analysis is the use of site-specific parameter values and existing models other than the generic NRC model. The guidance recommends that the licensee provide information supporting use of site-specific data or models other than the generic NRC model. Because the generic screening model addresses subsurface contamination through assumed redistribution to surface soil, it is very conservative for the case of residual contamination of subsurface structures. To provide a consistent level of analysis for the contamination of surface soil, building surface, and subsurface structures, a site-specific analysis approach was used for the PBRF.

The approach adopted for the PBRF dose assessment was to use a dose model other than the generic NRC model and to use site-specific data where available. The dose model selected for analyzing residual soil contamination, RESRAD Version 5.82 (Yu et al. 1993), has been formally accepted by the NRC for analysis of residential farmer scenarios. The dose model selected for analyzing residual building surface contamination, RESRAD-BUILD Version 2.20 [Yu et al. 1994), addresses pathways discussed in NRC guidance and is widely used by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the U.S. Department of Defense when analyzing building reuse scenarios. These two site-specific models include all pathways and exposure modes included in the NRC generic screening models. No conditions outside those incorporated in the site-specific models are expected to occur at the PBRF. The residential farmer scenario presumes that both the residence and garden are located on contaminated soil. Thus, the site-specific modeling is appropriate for assessing doses because of contamination of soil and building surfaces.

The RESRAD Version 5.82 model was also selected for analyzing residual subsurface structure contamination. The scenario differs from the generic screening scenario in that the subsurface residual contamination is physically separated from the AMCG, and contact with radionuclides is mediated by use of groundwater contaminated by contact with the residual subsurface contamination. Using groundwater as drinking and irrigation water leads to all the pathways and exposure modes included in the NRC generic screening model. No conditions outside those incorporated in the site-specific model are expected to occur at the PBRF, and no pathways have been eliminated. Thus, the site-specific model is appropriate for assessing dose because of residual contamination associated with subsurface structures.

Using existing characterization information (Teledyne Isotopes [1987] and Appendix A of this plan), site-specific pathway scenarios were used to calculate DCGLs and to develop estimates of dose over time for the AMCG at the PBRF. The generic DCGLs that have been developed in draft form in NUREG-1549 (NRC 1998b), are presented to provide perspective on the site-specific DCGLs. The site-specific DCGLs were developed by considering PBRF soils and hydrology.

### **Residual Contamination in Surface Soils**

NRC regulatory guidance (NRC 1998a) recommends analysis of a residential farmer scenario as the basis for the DCGLs for residual contamination in surface soil. In the residential farmer scenario, an individual could contact residual contamination by establishing a home and garden on contaminated soil or by using groundwater that comes in contact with the residual

contamination. The primary release modes are partitioning of contaminants from soil into infiltrating water and resuspension by wind. The environmental transport pathways include ground water transport; translocation into plants, animals, and fish; and atmospheric dispersion. Exposure modes include ingestion of water, crops, animal products, and fish; direct external exposure from the ground; inhalation of airborne material; and inadvertent ingestion of soil. Because uranium contamination is not expected based on historical knowledge or survey measurements, the radon exposure pathway is not included in the calculation of DCGLs for residual contamination of surface soils.

NUREG-1549 (NRC 1998b) identifies DCGLs (i.e., soil concentrations that would result in a TEDE of 25 mrem/yr to the AMCG) for a generic, screening-level exposure scenario. More realistic site-specific DCGLs for the PBRF were developed using RESRAD Version 5.82 (Yu et al. 1993), a computer code developed by DOE and commonly used to estimate residual contamination in soils. The site-specific DCGLs were calculated based on many variables that characterize the receptors, environmental pathways, and modes of exposure. The estimates of physical, behavioral, and metabolic parameter values were developed from either site measurements or literature review. Available site-specific characterization data include meteorological and geohydrological data, soil type characterization, and location and extent of contamination specifications. Thus, site-specific data for annual precipitation, saturated zone hydraulic conductivity and gradient, and thickness of the unsaturated zone were used in the RESRAD analyses. The average annual precipitation, saturated zone hydraulic conductivity, and saturated zone hydraulic gradient measurements are 0.86 m/yr (34 in./yr), 1070 m/yr (9.6 ft/day), and 0.0045 m/m (feet/foot), respectively (IT Corporation 1997). The ground level and water table elevations near the PBRF are approximately 192 m (629 ft) above mean sea level (MSL) and 189 m (620 ft) above MSL, respectively, for an unsaturated zone thickness of approximately 3 m (10 ft) (IT Corporation 1997).

Based on the description of site soils, site-specific hydrologic parameters were selected for the contaminated, unsaturated, and saturated zones. The description of the Arkport-Galen soils (IT Corporation 1997) that form the surficial soils and unsaturated soils and the field hydraulic conductivity measurements ranging from 1335 to 2670 m/yr (12 to 24 ft/day) are consistent with the characteristics of loamy sand (Beyeler et al. 1998a). For loamy sand, the NRC-recommended porosity and hydraulic conductivity values are 0.41 and 1262 m/yr (12 ft/day), respectively (Beyeler et al. 1998a), and these values were assumed for both the contaminated and unsaturated zones. For the saturated zone, the measured hydraulic conductivity of 1070 m/yr (9.6 ft/day) (IT Corporation 1997) is consistent with silt loam, and a porosity of 0.45 for the saturated zone is consistent with NRC guidance (Beyeler et al. 1998a). These values were assumed for the saturated soil. The site-specific data, including thickness and extent of the contaminated zone, hydraulic conductivity, soil types, and precipitation rate, are among the more dose-sensitive parameters. Using saturated zone hydraulic conductivity at the upper end of the range for silt loam is prudently conservative because it is consistent with the observed soil type and minimizes travel time to exposure points. Using a water table drop rate of 0 m/yr is also prudently conservative because it minimizes travel time through the unsaturated zone for the observed thickness of the zone. Using observed values for other site-specific parameters is reasonable because it is consistent with existing conditions and does not introduce a judgment bias that may be conservative or non-conservative depending on the intricacies of pathway analysis for individual radionuclides.

All the other parameters used in the dose analysis were generic screening values. These parameters were estimated based on NRC and DOE guidance for generic screening (i.e., the NUREG-1549 analysis [NRC 1998b; Beyeler et al. 1998a, 1998b] and the RESRAD computer code [Yu et al. 1993]) and are considered to be prudently conservative. Wherever possible, NRC-recommended parameter values were used unless site-specific data were available. In the absence of both site-specific and NRC-recommended values, RESRAD default values were used. The parameter values used in the analysis of the PBRF residential farmer scenario are presented in Tables 2-7 through 2-14. The generic values used for the most dose-sensitive parameter (i.e., the distribution coefficient), are relatively high. This results in retaining radionuclides in soil rather than removing them by groundwater, which produces conservative dose estimates through the external exposure pathway for the radionuclides controlling dose at the PBRF. As shown in Table 2-7, the radiation dose limit and time for calculations are 25 mrem/yr and 1000 years, respectively, as specified in 10 CFR 20.1401 and 20.4102.

**Table 2-7. Residential Farmer Scenario: Contaminated Zone Parameters**

Parameter	Parameter Value	Source
Area of contaminated zone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8128 m<sup>2</sup> for Emergency Retention Basin</li> <li>• 6700 m<sup>2</sup> for Pentolite Ditch</li> <li>• 58 m<sup>2</sup> for Waste Handling Building (1133) concrete pad spill area</li> </ul>	Teledyne Isotopes (1987)
Thickness of contaminated zone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0.15 m for Emergency Retention Basin</li> <li>• 0.15 m for Pentolite Ditch</li> <li>• 0.61 m for Waste Handling Building (1133) concrete pad spill area</li> </ul>	Teledyne Isotopes (1987)
Length parallel to aquifer flow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 107 m for Emergency Retention Basin</li> <li>• 7 m for Pentolite Ditch</li> <li>• 7 m Waste Handling Building (1133) concrete pad spill area</li> </ul>	Teledyne Isotopes (1987)
Radiation dose limit	25 mrem/yr	10 CFR 20.1402
Time since placement of material	0 years	Site specific
Time for calculations	Through 1000 years	10 CFR 20.1401

The parameters identified in Tables 2-7 through 2-14 were used in the RESRAD code to determine the corresponding radionuclides concentrations in soil (i.e., DCGLs). Table 2-15 presents the DCGLs for various radionuclides that would result in an annual TEDE of 25 mrem to a residential farmer. The first column of Table 2-15 identifies the radionuclide, the second column presents the DCGLs calculated by RESRAD using selected site-specific parameters, and, to provide perspective, the third column presents the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile concentrations from NUREG-1549 (NRC 1998b). Because none of the other area-specific parameter values (i.e., total area, contaminated zone thickness, and length parallel to flow) dominated the dose estimates, a single set of site-specific DCGLs is applicable for the surface soil, buildings, and subsurface structures.

**Table 2-8. Resident Farmer Scenario: Cover and Contaminated Zone Hydrologic Data**

Parameter	Parameter Value	Source
Density of contaminated zone	1.56 g/cm <sup>3</sup>	NUREG-1549 <sup>a,b</sup>
Contaminated zone erosion rate	0.001 m/yr	RESRAD <sup>c</sup>
Contaminated zone total porosity	0.41	NUREG-1549 <sup>a</sup>
Contaminated zone effective porosity	0.2	RESRAD
Contaminated zone hydraulic conductivity	1262 m/yr	NUREG-1549 <sup>a</sup>
Contaminated zone b parameter	1.4	NUREG-1549 <sup>a</sup>
Evapotranspiration coefficient	0.5	RESRAD
Precipitation	0.86 m/yr	Site specific
Irrigation	1.04 m/yr	NUREG-1549
Irrigation mode	Overhead	RESRAD
Runoff coefficient	0.2	RESRAD
Watershed area for stream or pond	1 × 10 <sup>6</sup> m <sup>2</sup>	RESRAD

a. Value for loamy sand (based on site description).

b. NUREG-1549 (NRC 1998b).

c. RESRAD (Yu et al. 1993).

**Table 2-9. Residential Farmer Scenario: Saturated Zone Hydrologic Data**

Parameter	Parameter Value	Source
Density of saturated zone	1.46 g/cm <sup>3</sup>	NUREG-1549 <sup>a,b</sup>
Saturated zone total porosity	0.45	NUREG-1549 <sup>a</sup>
Saturated zone effective porosity	0.2	RESRAD <sup>c</sup>
Saturated zone hydraulic conductivity	1070 m/yr	Site specific
Saturated zone hydraulic gradient	0.0045 m/m	Site specific
Saturated zone b parameter	3.8	NUREG-1549 <sup>a,b</sup>
Water table drop rate	0.0 m/yr	Site specific
Well pump intake depth	2.01 (m below water table)	Site specific
Mixing model	Nondispersion	RESRAD <sup>c</sup>
Individual use of groundwater	118 m <sup>3</sup> /yr	NUREG-1549

a. Value is for silt loam (based on comparison with well-test hydraulic conductivity).

b. NUREG-1549 (NRC 1998b).

c. RESRAD (Yu et al. 1993).

**Table 2-10. Residential Farmer Scenario: Uncontaminated and Unsaturated Zone Hydrologic Data**

Parameter	Parameter Value	Source
Number of unsaturated zone strata	1	Site specific
Unsaturated zone thickness	3.0 m	Site specific
Unsaturated zone soil density	1.56 g/cm <sup>3</sup>	NUREG-1549 <sup>a,b</sup>
Unsaturated zone total porosity	0.41	NUREG-1549 <sup>a</sup>
Unsaturated zone effective porosity	0.2	RESRAD <sup>c</sup>
Unsaturated zone b parameter	1.4	NUREG-1549 <sup>a</sup>
Unsaturated zone hydraulic conductivity	1262 m/yr	NUREG-1549 <sup>a</sup>

a. Value for loamy sand (based on site description).

b. NUREG-1549 (NRC 1998b).

c. RESRAD (Yu et al. 1993).

**Table 2-11. Residential Farmer Scenario: Distribution Coefficients**

Element	Parameter Value* (mL/g)
C	21
Fe	891
Co	1,000
Ni	37
Sr	32
Tc	7
Cs	447
Eu	955

\* Source: NUREG-1549 (NRC 1998b).

**Table 2-12. Residential Farmer Scenario: Dust Inhalation and External Gamma Parameters**

Parameter	Parameter Value	Source
Inhalation rate	8400 m <sup>3</sup> /yr	NUREG-1549 <sup>a</sup>
Mass loading for inhalation	6 × 10 <sup>-6</sup> g/m <sup>3</sup>	NUREG-1549 <sup>b</sup>
Dilution length for airborne dust	3 m	RESRAD <sup>c</sup>
Exposure duration	365.25 days	NUREG-1549
Shielding factor, inhalation	0.45	RESRAD
Shielding factor, external gamma	0.47	NUREG-1549 <sup>d</sup>
Fraction of time indoors, onsite	0.66	NUREG-1549
Fraction of time outdoors, onsite	0.11	NUREG-1549
Shape factor, external gamma	1	RESRAD
Fraction of annular areas	0	RESRAD

a. NUREG-1549 (NRC 1998b).

b. Activity and time average of NUREG-1549 values.

c. RESRAD (Yu et al. 19983).

d. Sum of the product of the means for the fraction of time and shielding factor for outdoor and indoor exposure.

**Table 2-13. Residential Farmer Scenario: Ingestion Pathway, Data Dietary Parameters**

Parameter	Parameter Value	Source
Fruit, vegetable, and grain consumption rate	78 kg/yr	NUREG-1549 <sup>a,b</sup>
Leafy vegetable consumption rate	15 kg/yr	NUREG-1549
Milk consumption	118 L/yr	NUREG-1549
Meat and poultry consumption	52 kg/yr	NUREG-1549 <sup>c</sup>
Fish consumption	16 kg/yr	NUREG-1549
Soil ingestion rate	18.3 g/yr	NUREG-1549
Drinking water intake	478 L/yr	NUREG-1549
Fraction of drinking water from site	1	RESRAD <sup>d</sup>
Fraction of aquatic load from site	0.5	RESRAD

- a. Sum of individual means for other vegetables, fruit, and grain.  
b. NUREG-1549 (NRC 1998b).  
c. Sum of individual means for meat and poultry.  
d. RESRAD (Yu et al. 19983).

**Table 2-14. Residential Farmer Scenario: Ingestion Pathway Data, Nondietary Parameters**

Parameter	Parameter Value	Source
Livestock fodder intake for meat	8.5 kg/day	NUREG-1549 <sup>a</sup>
Livestock fodder intake for milk	17 kg/day	NUREG-1549 <sup>b</sup>
Livestock water intake for meat	50 L/day	RESRAD <sup>c</sup>
Livestock water intake for milk	160 L/day	RESRAD
Livestock soil intake	0.5 kg/day	RESRAD
Mass loading for foliar deposition	$4 \times 10^{-4}$ g/m <sup>3</sup>	NUREG-1549 <sup>d</sup>
Depth of soil mixing layer	0.15 m	NUREG-1549
Depth of roots	0.9 m	RESRAD
Drinking water fraction from groundwater	1	RESRAD
Livestock water fraction from groundwater	1	NUREG-1549
Irrigation fraction from groundwater	1	RESRAD

- a. NUREG-1549 (NRC 1998b).  
b. Sum of individual medians for forage, hay, and grain.  
c. RESRAD (Yu et al. 19983).  
d. Value for gardening.

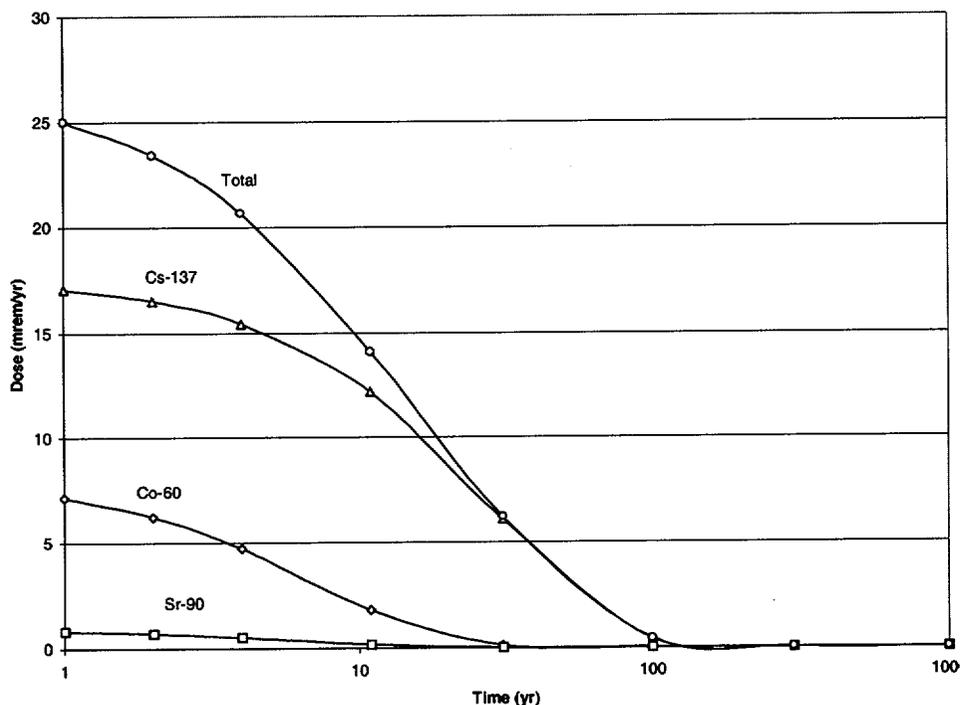
**Table 2-15. DCGLs for Surface Soils**

Radionuclide	Site-Specific DCGL <sup>a</sup> (pCi/g)	Generic Screening DCGL <sup>b</sup> (pCi/g)
Co-60	4.4	3.7
Sr-90	30	1.2
Cs-137	18	9.8

- a. Calculated by RESRAD using the parameters specified in Tables 2-7 through 2-14.  
b. Source: NUREG-1549 (NRC 1998b), provided for perspective.

Table 2-15 shows that different nuclides have different DCGLs and that the site-specific DCGLs are greater (i.e., less restrictive) than the generic screening concentration levels. Cobalt-60 has the lowest concentration limit of the site-specific DCGLs, which means cobalt presents the greatest hazard to the residential farmer per curie.

In addition to providing a numerical value for the DCGLs, dose assessment methods were used to investigate the time dependence of dose. Perspective on the evolution of dose over time can be developed if the isotopic distribution of radionuclides is known. Isotopic analysis of surface soils at PBRF indicates that the activity fractions of Co-60, Sr-90, and Cs-137 are 0.085, 0.065, and 0.85, respectively (Teledyne Isotopes 1987). The level of residual contamination producing a maximum dose of 25 mrem/yr for this isotopic distribution has been calculated. The time dependence of dose for this inventory for a time period of 1000 years is presented in Figure 2-1. The peak dose, occurring in the first year after release of the PBRF, includes contributions from Cs-137 (17 mrem/yr), Co-60 (7 mrem/yr), and Sr-90 (1 mrem/yr). Most of the dose in the peak year is from external radiation; because the Co-60 dose factor for external radiation is larger than that of Cs-137 or Sr-90, Co-60 produces a dose fraction greater than its activity fraction. Because Cs-137 has the largest dose contribution and a longer half-life than Co-60, the decline in total dose most closely follows the half-life of Cs-137. As shown by the uppermost curve in Figure 2-1, the total dose decreases to about 15 mrem/yr after 10 years.



**Figure 2-1. Time Dependence of Dose for Residual Contamination in Surface Soil Producing a Maximum Annual Dose of 25 mrem/yr**

## Residual Contamination in Buildings

The PBRF buildings that were largely uncontaminated by past operations will be demolished during decommissioning and could be used onsite as clean backfill. The PBRF buildings having residual contamination will be decontaminated, surveyed, and demolished. The survey will determine that the buildings meet the criteria for free release. After a survey of the subsurface structures demonstrates and these areas are suitable for free release, the demolition debris will be placed in the belowgrade cavities of the buildings. The building reuse scenario was used to develop DCGLs supporting release of PBRF buildings, such as the Reactor Office and Laboratory Building (Building 1141), which is known to have low levels of residual contamination.

In the building reuse scenario, residual contamination is assumed to be either located on building surfaces (i.e., walls, floors, and ceilings) or distributed throughout the building materials. The primary release mode is resuspension in air. Exposure modes include direct external exposure from surface and volume (i.e., surface and depth) sources; inhalation of resuspended material; and inadvertent ingestion of dust. Because uranium contamination is not expected based on historical data or survey measurements, the radon pathway is not included in the calculation of DCGLs for the building reuse scenario.

NRC has published generic screening DCGLs of common radionuclides for building surface contamination (NRC 1998c). To analyze residual contamination in PBRF buildings, a site-specific analysis was conducted using RESRAD-BUILD (Yu et al. 1994). The analysis considered all reasonable pathways and exposure modes and is consistent with the NRC generic screening model (NRC 1998b). Table 2-16 summarizes the parameters used in the site-specific RESRAD-BUILD analysis. For the building reuse scenario, it was assumed that residual radioactivity in building walls would be sources for direct exposure, and contamination would be resuspended only from the floor. The rate of resuspension from the floor for the RESRAD-BUILD volumetric erosion source model was estimated by assuming that a concrete floor with a density of  $2.4 \text{ g/cm}^3$  was contaminated to a depth of 1 cm, that the room was ventilated at an exchange rate of 2 room volumes per hour, and that the airborne concentration was that predicted by the NUREG-1549 surface source resuspension model with a resuspension factor of  $1.8 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m}^{-1}$ . This approach produces an estimate of floor erosion rate of  $1.3 \times 10^{-4} \text{ cm/day}$ . Site-specific parameters include the dimension of the room (15 m [49 ft] long, 5 m [16 ft] wide, and 3 m [10 ft] high). Using these dimensions for all rooms is prudently conservative because it represents the largest room expected to have residual contamination, it maximizes resuspension from the floors, and it maximizes direct radiation from the largest wall because of the relative narrowness of the room.

**Table 2-16. Building Reuse Scenario: Parameter Values**

Parameter	Parameter Value <sup>a</sup>
Occupancy period	365.25 days/yr <sup>b</sup>
Exposure time indoors	97.5 days/yr <sup>b</sup>
Exposure time outdoors	112 days/yr <sup>b</sup>
Resuspension factor	$1.8 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m}^{-1}$
Volumetric breathing rate	1.4 m <sup>3</sup> /hr
Transfer rate for ingestion	$1.0 \times 10^{-4} \text{ m}^2/\text{hr}$

a. Source: NUREG-1549 (NRC 1998b).

b. Time periods given as effective 24-hour days.

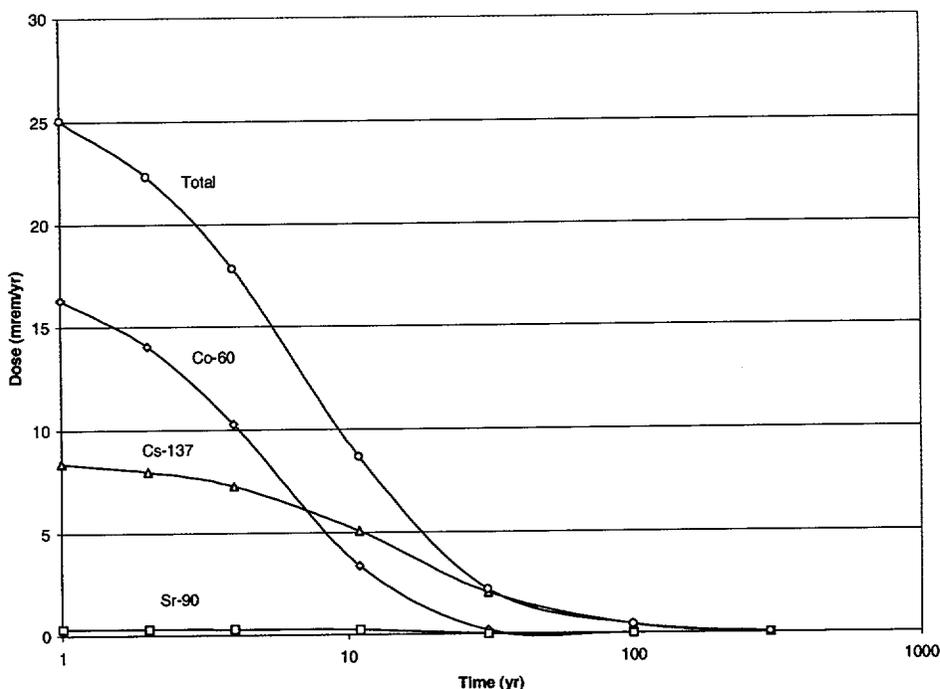
Table 2-17 presents the DCGLs for nuclides that would result in a TEDE of 25 mrem/yr under the building reuse scenario. The first column of Table 2-17 identifies the radionuclide; the second column presents the site-specific DCGLs calculated using RESRAD-BUILD; and, for perspective, the third column presents screening level DCGLs at the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile. Estimates of the external exposure estimated for the generic screening scenario considered a single surface of infinite extent (NRC 1998a). The site-specific estimates considered one floor and four wall surfaces of finite extent. Thus, the site-specific analysis produces DCGLs that are less restrictive than the generic screening analysis. Exposure from ceilings was not considered in derivation of the DCGLs presented in Table 2-17. If survey data collected during remediation indicate the presence of residual contamination, the DCGLs of Table 2-17 will be adjusted to reflect this condition. The individual nuclide DCGLs presented in Table 2-17 are combined using the sum-of-fractions rule to develop the single criterion used in the decision process.

**Table 2-17. DCGLs for Buildings Remaining after License Termination**

Radionuclide	Site-Specific DCGL (dpm/100 cm <sup>2</sup> ) <sup>a</sup>	Generic Screening DCGL (dpm/100 cm <sup>2</sup> ) <sup>b</sup>
H-3	$3.9 \times 10^9$	$1.3 \times 10^8$
Fe-55	$1.0 \times 10^8$	$4.0 \times 10^6$
Co-60	16,000	6900
Ni-63	$4.3 \times 10^7$	$1.6 \times 10^6$
Sr-90	199,000	7500
Cs-137	65,600	28,000

- a. Calculated by RESRAD-BUILD using the parameters identified in Table 2-16.  
b. Source: NUREG-1549 (NRC 1998b) and NRC (1998c).

In addition to providing numerical value for DCGLs, dose assessment methods were used to investigate the time dependence of dose. The time distribution for the building reuse scenario was calculated using an estimate of isotopic distribution based on characterization data. The average ratio of Cs-137 to Co-60 in the Reactor Building outside of the containment vessel was approximately 2:1, and all measurements show a Sr-90 to Cs-137 ratio of less than 0.1. Based on these data, an activity distribution of 63% Cs-137, 30% Co-60, and 7% Sr-90 was estimated. The level of residual contamination producing a maximum dose of 25 mrem/yr for this isotopic distribution has been calculated. The time dependence of dose for this inventory for a time period of 1000 years is presented in Figure 2-2. Figure 2-2 shows that the peak dose occurs in the first year after release of the PBRF and that dose decreases relatively rapidly with time. As shown by the uppermost curve in Figure 2-2, the total dose decreases to about 9 mrem/yr after 10 years.



**Figure 2-2. Time Dependence of Dose for Residual Contamination on Building Surfaces Producing a Maximum Annual Dose of 25 mrem/yr**

### Residual Contamination in Subsurface Structures

Decontamination and decommissioning of belowgrade PBRF structures (e.g., the Reactor Building [Building 1111]) will include decontamination of surfaces to building reuse DCGLs and offsite disposal of decontamination waste, removing decontaminated abovegrade and belowgrade structures down to 1 m (3 ft) belowgrade, backfilling belowground cavities with rubble generated from demolishing decontaminated abovegrade and belowgrade structures, and installing a cover over the backfilled area. Residual activity in the belowground portions of the Reactor Building could be from several sources: in crushed concrete from aboveground structures, in remaining portions of the biological shield, on the surfaces of the canals and quadrants, and in piping that is embedded in concrete. Because a portion of the radioactive material remaining in the Reactor Building is greater than 3 m (10 ft) below the surface and is considered unlikely to be directly contacted by individuals entering the PBRF, a set of scenarios was developed to assess potential impacts and to determine DCGLs. The potential impacts of contamination remaining within 3 m (10 ft) of the surface were assessed using residential agriculture and home construction scenarios. In the case of near-surface contamination, the AMCG is assumed to be in direct contact with the residual contamination. In the case of contamination at depth greater than 3 m (10 ft), contact is assumed to be indirect and is mediated by using contaminated groundwater drawn from a well.

In the residential farmer scenario for near-surface contamination because of subsurface structures at the Reactor Building, the pathways and exposure modes were the same as those derived above for the analysis of surface contamination at the Emergency Retention Basin, Pentolite Ditch, and spill area at the Waste Handling Building concrete pad. The thickness of the

contaminated zone is taken as 1 m (3 ft) to maximize dose through the external exposure and crop pathways. The radionuclides of concern for this scenario are those identified for subsurface structures in Table 2-6. The DCGLs derived for these radionuclides using site-specific analyses are presented in Table 2-18, and the generic screening DCGLs are provided for perspective. The DCGLs are combined using the sum-of-fractions rule to derive the single criterion needed in the decision process. The site-specific DCGLs indicate that Co-60 and Eu-154 are the dose-dominating radionuclides for the estimated radionuclide distribution. DCGLs estimated for the home construction scenario were orders of magnitude greater than the values presented in Table 2-18, indicating that the residential farmer scenario is bounding for near-surface contamination.

**Table 2-18. DCGLs for Subsurface Structures within 3 Meters (10 feet) of the Surface\***

<b>Radionuclide</b>	<b>Site-Specific DCGL (pCi/g)</b>	<b>Generic Screening DCGL (pCi/g)</b>
C-14	17.5	6.5
Fe-55	63,000	9350
Co-60	4.0	3.7
Ni-59	15,000	1850
Ni-63	5400	717
Tc-99	36.0	14.9
Cs-137	16.0	9.8
Eu-152	9.6	8.7
Eu-154	8.7	8.0

\* Near-surface contamination at the Reactor Building is due to postulated redistribution of contamination associated with building rubble and subsurface structures.

Following cap installation and site closure, groundwater will infiltrate into the portions of the Reactor Building below the water table and will dissolve radionuclides into the groundwater. The contaminated groundwater would flow north away from the Reactor Building. To evaluate the impact from the gradual leaching of radionuclides from subsurface structures into groundwater, a residential farmer scenario was evaluated where contaminated groundwater was used to irrigate a garden. Contamination of surface soil by irrigation leads to all the exposure pathways described above for residual contamination in surface soil, including consumption of drinking water, crops, and animal products and exposure to direct radiation and resuspended soil. The release rate of radionuclides was estimated as limited by equilibrium partitioning between the groundwater and the belowgrade contamination. Mean values of partition coefficients from NUREG-1549 (NRC 1998b) were used in the calculations. The contamination was assumed to be uniformly distributed through the belowgrade volume. This approach is consistent with analysis of residual contamination in surface soil and is reasonable because water passing vertically or horizontally through the subsurface structure would mix during transport to the well.

The residential farmer scenario doses were estimated using the RESRAD code. Because RESRAD was designed for analysis of contamination in the unsaturated zone and the residual contamination associated with subsurface structures is in the saturated zone, the values of infiltration rate and unsaturated zone hydraulic conductivity were selected so that the groundwater flux through the belowgrade building area would be equivalent to that expected for saturated

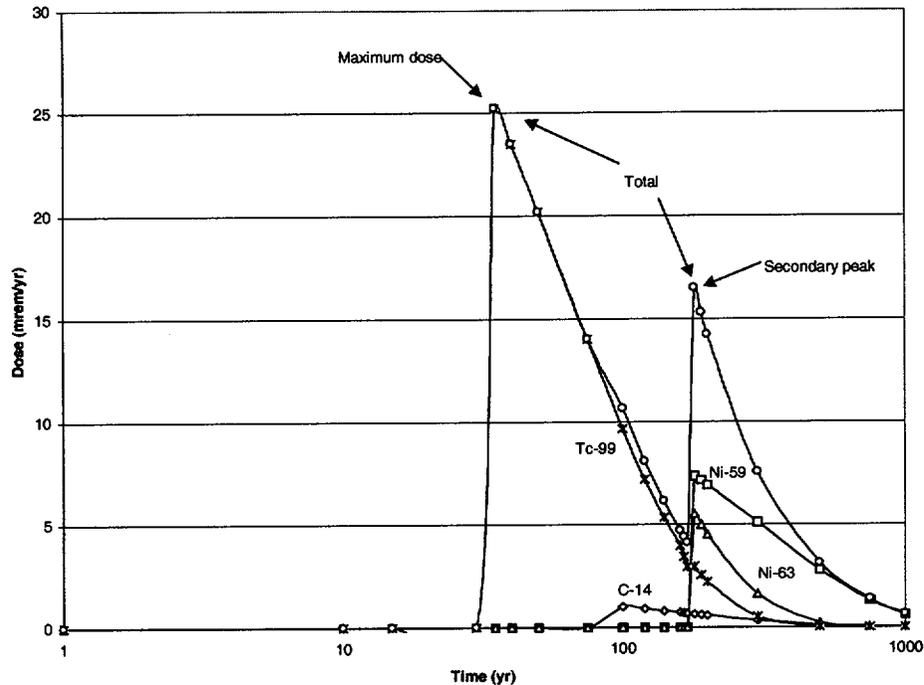
conditions. The distance through the unsaturated zone to the well take-up point was selected to provide a travel time equivalent to that of saturated flow to the edge of the building. DCGLs for individual radionuclides for subsurface structures are presented in Table 2-19. Consistent with the guidance of Draft Regulatory Guide DG-4006 (NRC 1998a), DCGL values are not provided for radionuclides that make less than a 10% contribution to dose. To use these DCGLs in the license termination decision will involve translating surface and volumetric activity measurements collected in the final status survey into volume average concentrations used with the sum-of-fractions rule. The volume used in the dose assessment was a cylinder with the 30-m (100-ft) diameter of the containment vessel, which extended vertically downward a distance of 6 m (20 ft) from the water table to the level of the bottom of the reactor tank.

**Table 2-19. DCGLs for Subsurface Structures Greater than 3 Meters (10 Feet) Below the Surface**

Nuclide	Site-Specific DCGL (pCi/g)
C-14	156
Ni-59	2940
Ni-63	3730
Tc-99	125

Radionuclides that are strongly retained by soil (including isotopes of iron, cobalt, cesium, and europium) would require concentrations that are orders of magnitude larger than more mobile radionuclides (nickel and carbon) to provide 25 mrem/yr to the resident farmer. Because radionuclides travel at different rates, applications of the sum-of-fractions rule to the DCGLs presented in Table 2-19 provide a conservative value for the single criterion needed for the decision process.

In addition to providing numerical values for DCGLs, dose assessment methods were used to calculate the time dependence of dose. Figure 2-3 shows dose over 1000 years using a sample inventory of 0.04 Ci C-14, 6 Ci Ni-59, 5.6 Ci Ni-63, and 0.9 Ci Tc-99, which would produce a maximum dose of 25 mrem/yr. The total dose distribution over time can have multiple peaks because the radionuclides travel in groundwater at different rates. The maximum dose in Figure 2-3, occurring approximately 35 years after release of the PBRF, is due to weakly retained Tc-99. A secondary peak occurs after 180 years from the slower transport of the nickel isotopes, which are more strongly retained than technetium. Different inventories would result in different dose versus time plots.



**Figure 2-3. Time Dependence of Dose for Residual Contamination in Subsurface Structures Producing a Maximum Annual Dose of 25 mrem/yr**

### 2.2.3.2 ALARA Analysis Methodology

This section describes the proposed ALARA analysis methodology that will be conducted to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of 10 CFR Part 20, Subpart E, "Radiological Criteria for License Termination." The ALARA analysis methodology follows the concepts in NRC Draft Regulatory Guide DG-4006, "Demonstrating Compliance with the Radiological Criteria for License Termination" (NRC 1998a). The analysis compares the benefits and costs for postulated decommissioning actions and expresses them in present value economic terms (i.e., a dollar value). In accordance with Draft Regulatory Guide DG-4006, if the benefits of a particular action are greater than the costs, then an action should be taken (either the postulated action or possibly another action that has more balance between benefits and costs). If the costs for a particular action are greater than the benefits, then that action would not have to be implemented. If no action can be identified whose benefits are greater than its costs, the existing residual contamination would be considered ALARA.

### Methodology for Conducting ALARA Analyses

The ALARA analysis methodology is presented as three steps:

1. Define the area of analysis and estimate the baseline population dose from existing contamination

2. Define the potential decommissioning action and estimate the population dose from residual contamination after implementing the action
3. Estimate the benefits and costs for the decommissioning action and compare them.

Each of these three steps is discussed in the following paragraphs.

**Step 1: Define Area of Analysis and Estimate Baseline Population Dose**—The first step is to define the area of analysis (e.g., an area of contaminated soil) and to estimate the baseline population dose (i.e., the population dose from existing contamination before implementing the action). The baseline population dose is estimated by first calculating the annual dose to the AMCG considering credible reuse scenarios as developed in Section 2.2.3.1. For example, if the contaminated area is a building, a building occupancy scenario using the existing radionuclide inventory would be evaluated to estimate the annual dose to an individual building occupant. If the area is contaminated soil, the annual dose to an individual residential farmer would be evaluated. Using the dose models described in Section 2.2.3.1, annual doses to the AMCG will be estimated for a maximum of 1000 years. Multiplying the annual individual doses by population density parameters from Draft Regulatory Guide DG-4006 yields population doses over the 1000-year period. In this way, the long-term baseline population dose as a function of time will be calculated for a specific area.

**Step 2: Define Decommissioning Action and Estimate Population Dose After Implementing the Action**—The second step is to define a postulated decommissioning action and then calculate what the population dose from residual contamination would be after implementing the action. This post-implementation population dose will be calculated from individual dose estimates and population density parameters in the same manner as the baseline population dose (step 1).

**Step 3: Estimate Benefits and Costs and Compare Them for the Decommissioning Action**—The third step is to estimate the benefits and costs of implementing the postulated decommissioning action and then compare them.

**Step 3a. Estimate Benefits**—The benefit of implementing a decommissioning action for a specific facility or area is the averted dose to the future population (i.e., the reduction in long-term population dose). The benefit of averted long-term population dose is calculated by subtracting the estimated long-term population dose after implementing an action (step 2) from the estimated long-term baseline population dose if no action was performed (step 1). This difference, the averted dose, will be converted to a monetary equivalent by multiplying by \$2000 per averted person-rem per Draft Regulatory Guide DG-4006.

**Step 3b. Estimate Costs**—The costs of implementing a decommissioning action consists of the following components (including overhead costs):

- The monetary cost of performing the action
- The monetary cost of either transporting waste to a processing facility or transporting and disposing of the waste
- The monetary equivalent of worker fatalities from implementing the action

- The monetary equivalent of the dose to workers implementing the decommissioning action
- The monetary equivalent of the dose to the population from implementing the action and transporting waste
- The monetary equivalent of traffic fatalities from waste being transported to a processing or disposal facility
- Any other costs specific to the PBRF decommissioning actions.

The ALARA analysis focuses primarily on estimating the monetary cost for implementing the action and waste transport and disposal; other costs are comparatively small. If worker dose or population dose from implementing the action are included, the doses will be converted to monetary equivalents by multiplying by \$2000 per person-rem. If fatalities associated with implementing the action are included, they will be converted to monetary equivalents by multiplying them by \$3,000,000 per fatality according to Draft Regulatory Guide DG-4006. Input parameters used in this cost calculation (e.g., worker and traffic fatality rates) will be taken from Draft Regulatory Guide DG-4006.

*Step 3c. Calculate Present Worth of Benefits and Costs*—The monetary equivalent of future benefits and costs will then be discounted to determine their present worth following the guidance in Draft Regulatory Guide DG-4006. Future monetary equivalents will be discounted to determine present worth using Equation 2-1.

$$C_{pw} = \frac{C_n}{(1 + d)^n} \quad (2-1)$$

where

- $C_{pw}$  = present worth of future monetary equivalent  
 $C_n$  = monetary equivalent at n years in the future  
d = discount rate  
n = number of years in the future that the monetary equivalent is calculated.

Discount rates will be used in accordance with Draft Regulatory Guide DG-4006. A 7 percent discount rate will be applied for the first 100 years after an action is performed, and a 3 percent discount rate will be applied beyond that time. The present worth of both benefits and costs will be discounted using Equation 2-1.

*Step 3d. Compare Present Worth of Costs and Benefits*—The present worth of the benefits and costs calculated in step 3c will be compared. For those actions where the present worth of benefits is greater than costs, then the existing residual contamination would not meet the ALARA requirement, and some decommissioning action (e.g., scabbling of concrete) should be taken. For those actions where the present worth of the costs are greater than benefits, then according to Draft

Regulatory Guide-4006, the analyzed decommissioning action would not be necessary to comply with the ALARA requirement. If no other action can be identified that results in the benefits being greater than the costs, then the existing residual contamination level will be ALARA.

An example of the preliminary ALARA analysis conducted for the Emergency Retention Basin at the PBRF is given in Appendix C of this plan.

### Examples of Preliminary ALARA Analysis for Selected PBRF Decommissioning Actions

Preliminary ALARA analyses were conducted for five postulated decommissioning actions for the PBRF facilities. These preliminary ALARA analyses considered individual resident farmer scenarios when calculating future doses because the buildings at these areas will have been demolished as part of decommissioning. Table 2-20 summarizes the selected decommissioning actions and the results of the preliminary ALARA analysis. The first two columns identify the facility or area and the postulated decommissioning action. The third column presents the calculated benefits. Because NASA intends to retain control of the site, any potential exposure would occur at a later time frame than that assumed in the analysis; therefore, the averted population dose benefit estimates presented in Table 2-20 are biased high. The fourth column presents the calculated costs, which consist of the total dollar cost of implementing the action. These cost estimates are fully burdened. The costs may be biased low because a low unit waste disposal cost was assumed for the analysis.

**Table 2-20. Summary of Preliminary ALARA Analysis Results for Selected Decontamination and Offsite Disposal Actions**

Facility/Area	Action	Benefit (\$)	Cost (\$)
Reactor Building (1111)	Remove highly activated portion of biological shield	23	69,600
	Remove primary cooling water piping	0	1,140,000
Emergency Retention Basin*	Remove contaminated surface soil	8,924	1,859,000
Pentolite Ditch	Remove contaminated surface soil	2,450	271,000
Previous spill area near the Waste Handling Building (1133)	Remove contaminated soil and asphalt	179	283,000

\* Example ALARA analysis calculations for the Emergency Retention Basin are provided in Appendix C of this plan.

The results of the preliminary ALARA analyses show that the 25 mrem/yr dose limit criteria to the AMCG is more restrictive than the ALARA criteria.

### 2.3 Decommissioning Tasks

This section (1) describes the activities and tasks necessary for planning the decommissioning of the PBRF, preparing the PBRF for decommissioning, performing dismantling and decontamination, and conducting the final status survey and (2) presents the schedule for these

activities. The following information related to decommissioning activities and tasks is contained in other sections of this decommissioning plan:

- The locations of facilities and areas are described in Section 1.2 and shown in Figure 1-2.
- The estimated radioactivity of PBRF facilities and areas is discussed in Section 2.2.2.
- Estimates of worker dose from decommissioning activities are provided in Section 3.1.3 (Table 3-2).
- Types of radioactive waste that will be generated, waste packaging, and waste resolution are discussed in Section 3.2.2; details are shown in Table 3-3.

### **2.3.1 Activities and Tasks**

The objectives of the PBRF decommissioning activities and tasks are removing contaminated equipment, components, and systems; removing contaminated material and soil; decontaminating buildings and structures; and demolishing structures to an elevation 1 m (3 ft) below grade. The belowgrade portions of the buildings and structures will be backfilled with clean soil and/or concrete and masonry rubble. While the decontamination work is in process, remedial action status surveys will be made to ensure that the contamination has been removed to the limits required. Final status surveys of surface soil will be conducted after soil removal activities, before backfilling.

More than one option for managing abovegrade structures is being considered because the regulations that govern PBRF license termination are new and several interpretations of these regulations are possible. NASA is considering using three options for DCGLs and decommissioning actions for abovegrade structures:

- (1) Surfaces of abovegrade structures would be decontaminated to meet either building reuse or groundwater-mediated residential agriculture DCGLs, the final status survey would be conducted, the abovegrade structure would be demolished, and the rubble would be placed in the subsurface cavity of a PBRF building after the cavity has been decontaminated and surveyed. If building reuse DCGLs are used, the final status survey measurements will be on a surface area basis. If the residential agriculture scenario is used, the final status survey measurements will be on a volumetric basis.
- (2) Surfaces of abovegrade structures would be decontaminated to meet groundwater-mediated residential agriculture DCGLs, the abovegrade structure would be demolished, the demolition rubble would be size-reduced, a final status survey of the rubble would be conducted, and then the rubble would be placed in a subsurface cavity of a PBRF building. This option varies from the first primarily in the timing of the final status survey relative to demolition of the decontaminated structure and the form of the material surveyed.
- (3) The entire abovegrade portion of the building would be removed and disposed of offsite as low-level radioactive waste.

For belowgrade structures, the surfaces will be decontaminated to meet either building reuse or groundwater-mediated DCGLs, the final status survey will be conducted, the subsurface cavity will be backfilled with either demolition rubble from the abovegrade portion of a decontaminated PBRF building or clean fill, and then the area will be backfilled and contoured.

Options for abovegrade structures like those identified above are currently being proposed by NRC licensees, and they will be evaluated by the NRC staff and the Commissioners over the coming years. At the time of decommissioning the PBRF, NASA management will evaluate these options and select one that meets the regulatory requirements and is cost effective.

Final status surveys of abovegrade building surfaces will be conducted before building demolition. Final status surveys of belowgrade surfaces will be conducted before backfilling belowgrade portions of buildings. The final status surveys will be planned and implemented in accordance with Draft Regulatory Guide DG-4006 (NRC 1998a), NUREG-1505 (Gogolak et. al, 1998), NUREG-1575 (USEPA et. al, 1997), and NUREG-1507 (Abelquist et. al, 1997). Verification surveys will be performed, as required, by the NRC to demonstrate the adequacy of the final status surveys. Radioactive wastes generated during the removal and decontamination activities will be shipped to either a licensed, low-level radioactive waste disposal facility or to a waste processor. Industrial waste generated by building demolition will be disposed of off site in an industrial landfill.

In each building and work area, a source term reduction strategy is planned for each task, where material having high source terms or radiation levels will typically be removed first to minimize personnel exposure during the remainder of the task. The source term reduction effort would be modified when specific conditions are expected to result in personnel exposures that are not ALARA.

The activities comprising the PBRF decommissioning project were assigned a Work Element Number (WEN) (consistent with the cost estimate in Section 1.2.2), as shown in Table 2-21. These activities include planning (WENs 1.0 and 2.1); preparing the site areas and facilities for decommissioning (WENs 2.2.2.4 and 2.2.2.6); decontamination and dismantling (WENs 2.2.1, 2.2.2.3, 2.2.2.5, and 2.2.2.7 through 2.2.2.13); demolition and backfilling (WENs 2.2.2.15 through 2.2.2.17); and the final status survey (WEN 2.2.2.14). Each activity listed in Table 2-21 is described in Section 2.3.1, and the schedule for implementing these activities is described in Section 2.3.2. Decommissioning the PBRF in accordance with the activities described in Section 2.3.1 and the proposed schedule in Section 2.3.2 is contingent upon two key requirements: (1) continued access to licensed low-level radioactive waste disposal facilities and (2) timely funding of decommissioning activities.

### ***2.3.1.1 Planning Activities***

The planning activities ensure that necessary resources are identified, requirements are identified and mapped to appropriate processes and procedures, and roles and responsibilities are documented clearly.

**Table 2-21. Activities and Tasks for Decommissioning the  
NASA Plum Brook Reactor Facility**

Work Element No.	Work Element Description <sup>a</sup>
Planning Activities:	
1.0	Decommissioning Planning
2.1	NASA Operations and Direct Support
Preparation Activities:	
2.2.2.4	Systems Operation, Maintenance, and Deactivation
2.2.2.6	Site Preparation
Decontamination and Dismantling Tasks:	
2.2.1	Operations Management and Support
2.2.2.2	Security
2.2.2.3	Health Physics
2.2.2.5	Contaminated Soil Removal <sup>b</sup>
2.2.2.7	Asbestos Removal and Lead Paint Abatement
2.2.2.8	Loose Equipment Removal
2.2.2.9	Removal of Activated Material in Hot Dry Storage Area
2.2.2.10	Decontamination
2.2.2.11	Reactor Internals and Tank Removal
2.2.2.12	Contaminated Piping and Equipment Removal
2.2.2.13	Contaminated Concrete and Embedded Pipe Removal
2.2.2.14	Final Status Survey
2.2.2.15	Building Demolition
2.2.2.16	Building Backfill
2.2.2.17	Reactor Building Backfill

a. Work Element Nos. 2.2.2.5 and 2.2.2.6 through 2.2.2.13 include waste packaging and transportation.

b. Work Element No. 2.2.2.5 includes backfilling excavated areas.

### **Decommissioning Planning (WEN 1.0)**

During Decommissioning Planning, the NASA Decommissioning Team will be formally organized and a project staff will be selected. Responsibilities, authority, and lines of communication will be defined and project administrative procedures will be prepared. The project management team will specify the requirements for NASA's QA program, safety and health program, and health physics program. These requirements will be incorporated into the Decommissioning Contractor bid specification. The requirements for the final status survey also will be prepared for inclusion into the Decommissioning Contractor bid specification.

Also, as part of Decommissioning Planning, this decommissioning plan and Technical Specifications (separate from the decommissioning plan) have been prepared and submitted to the NRC for approval.

Preliminary engineering tasks will be performed to support the preparation of the Decommissioning Contractor bid specification, including preparing documents that define the radiological status of the PBRF; define the scope of the asbestos and lead paint abatement task; and identify the operational status of energized electrical systems, operational electrical, mechanical, building service, and communications systems and assess their need during decommissioning. A detailed plan to deenergize and terminate electrical systems not required during decommissioning and to provide electrical power for decommissioning operations will be prepared. A detailed project schedule will be prepared for inclusion into the Decommissioning Contractor bid specification, and a detailed cost estimate will be prepared for use in project controls.

The NASA Decommissioning Team will prepare a bid specification to serve as the basis for selecting the Decommissioning Contractor, review the bid proposals, and select the Decommissioning Contractor.

### **NASA Operations and Direct Support (WEN 2.1)**

NASA Operations and Direct Support will consist of the general oversight of the Decommissioning Contractor and specific project oversight relating to the project safety and health and QA programs and ensuring Decommissioning Contractor compliance with them. Specific responsibilities and management functions of the NASA Decommissioning Team are summarized in Section 2.4.

#### ***2.3.1.2 Preparing for Decommissioning Activities***

#### **Systems Operation, Maintenance, and Deactivation (WEN 2.2.2.4)**

Selected permanent PBRF systems will be used during decommissioning and will be operated and maintained until their use is no longer required. When no longer required, the electrical power supply will be deenergized and the cables terminated. Site Preparation (WEN 2.2.2.6) assumes the use of an existing electrical substation for decommissioning power and facility lighting and overhead cranes as examples of existing systems that would require operations and maintenance support. This task is anticipated to be limited in scope based on the expectation that WEN 1.0 (Decommissioning Planning) will conclude that few permanent PBRF systems are required for decommissioning and a separate decommissioning power supply should be provided.

#### **Site Preparation (WEN 2.2.2.6)**

In WEN 1.0 (Decommissioning Planning) existing facility systems required for decommissioning will be identified, and construction packages to activate or refurbish them will be prepared. In this Site Preparation task, the required systems will be refurbished and reactivated. Potential activities performed in this task include reactivating the 34,500-volt electrical substation; relamping the facility's existing lighting systems; refurbishing or servicing the overhead cranes

throughout the facility to ensure their operability; repairing the access road from the main gate to the PBRF; providing parking areas for project personnel; refurbishing the guard house; preparing a craft mobilization and dress-out area; installing health physics control points with dosimetry distribution; providing hand and shoe monitors or portal monitors at radiological control area points of egress; and performing general housekeeping, including removing large items from the truck bay. Remotely controlled equipment in the Hot Dry Storage Area is planned to be reactivated to remove and package the inventory of activated and contaminated components.

Other activities could be determined during WEN 1.0 (Decommissioning Planning) and may include (1) refurbishing the Reactor Office and Laboratory Building for use as office space, although using trailers or modular offices is the preferred alternative, and (2) using existing ventilation systems during decommissioning, although these systems can only be operated for a limited time before their use becomes an obstacle to dismantling operations.

### ***2.3.1.3 Decontamination and Dismantling Tasks***

#### **Operations Management and Support (WEN 2.2.1)**

WEN 2.2.1 (Operations Management and Support) will incorporate the Decommissioning Contractor's field, non-manual work force and headquarters support, excluding security and health physics. This support will include project management; QA; safety and health; cost estimating; scheduling; progress reporting; construction management; labor relations; labor supervision; subcontractor oversight; procurement and contracts administration; field and construction engineering, including procedure preparation; environmental engineering and permit applications; records management; training; site maintenance; waste management; transportation planning; preparing of the final status survey plan; conducting the final status survey; and regulatory affairs.

#### **Security (WEN 2.2.2.2)**

Because the fuel has been removed from the PBRF, industrial security will be provided for the PBRF decommissioning project. Industrial security will control the site to ensure protection from radiation and industrial hazards and protect capital assets.

Site security will consist of the existing PBRF perimeter fencing around the PBRF, 24-hour site perimeter surveillance provided by a staff of security guards, site access control via the guard house, access controls for the work force, and locks on individual buildings.

#### **Health Physics (WEN 2.2.2.3)**

The objective of WEN 2.2.2.3 (Health Physics) is to control the radiological exposure of the work force and the public. This Health Physics task will consist of radiological engineering (e.g., calculating dose estimates and source terms); monitoring offsite discharges and maintaining the monitors in operable condition; reviewing decommissioning operations for ALARA compliance; controlling dosimetry and managing exposure records; conducting health physics surveys and maintaining survey data; conducting waste surveys and characterization; and training radiological workers.

## **Contaminated Soil Removal (WEN 2.2.2.5)**

In WEN 2.2.2.5, contaminated soil will be removed from the Emergency Retention Basin, Pentolite Ditch, former spill areas, and Water Effluent Monitoring Station to the extent required to meet DCGLs. Contaminated soil at these areas will be removed following demolition of structures at these areas. At areas requiring 15 to 30 cm (6 to 12 in) of material to be removed, excavations will be performed using conventional mechanical excavators. Then, to minimize the overall waste volume, manual labor using hand tools will be used to collect contaminated soil remaining in small patches. Remedial action status surveys will be performed as the work progresses to ensure that contaminated materials have been removed to the required limits. Open excavations will be minimized before conducting the final status survey on areas of contaminated soil.

### **Emergency Retention Basin**

Decontamination of the Emergency Retention Basin is estimated to require removing approximately 880 m<sup>3</sup> (10,350 ft<sup>3</sup>) of surface soil. The depth of contaminated surface soil at this area varies from 0 to 10 cm (0 to 4 in) deep and a limited number of areas of near-surface soil from 10 to 15 cm (4 to 6 in) deep. Because of the shallow depth of the contaminated soil, conventional mechanical excavators could result in excavating excess material, increasing the volume for disposal. If excess clean material is excavated, it will be segregated from contaminated soil. A conveyor incorporating meters for real-time monitoring of soil could be used to separate clean soil from contaminated soil; then the clean material could be used as backfill onsite. In dry weather, a laser-guided grader could be used to more efficiently remove the shallow soil depth. The volume of contaminated soil excavated can be minimized by lowering the angle of the blade cutting edge, which will permit it to shave rather than plow the soil. Another efficient method to remove shallow soil is to remove the ground cover as sod. The clean soil in the berms around the Emergency Retention Basin would be removed and used as backfill onsite.

### **Pentolite Ditch, Drainage Ditches, and Culverts**

Sediments in the Pentolite Ditch range in depth from 15 to 30 cm (6 to 12 in.). Contaminated sediment will be removed to levels required by the DCGLs using equipment such as a conventional mechanical excavator. The Pentolite Ditch will be dewatered and allowed to dry before excavating contaminated soil. After performing a characterization survey on drainage ditches and culverts, the contaminated soil in the ditches and contaminated concrete from the culverts will be removed using equipment such as a conventional mechanical excavator. Approximately 130 m<sup>3</sup> (4500 ft<sup>3</sup>) of contaminated soil is estimated to require removal from the Pentolite Ditch.

### **Former Spill Area**

A former spill near the Waste Handling Building concrete pad resulted in contaminated soil and some asphalt. Approximately 153 m<sup>3</sup> (5400 ft<sup>3</sup>) of this material is estimated to require excavation. Approximately 2.8 m<sup>3</sup> (99 ft<sup>3</sup>) of asphalt up to 15 cm (6 in) deep is estimated to require removal. The asphalt would be removed using equipment such as a mini-hoe ram and back

hoe. Then contaminated soil, estimated to be 1.8 to 2.4 m (6 to 8 ft) deep, will be excavated. After conducting the final status survey at this area, the excavated area will be backfilled to grade level.

### **Water Effluent Monitoring Station (1192)**

Catch basins will be flushed with high pressure water using pumps and hoses. Liquids will be collected, treated using skid-mounted equipment, and transferred to a holding tank. Treated water will be transferred from the holding tank to a tank truck and hauled to a sanitary sewer manhole for discharge. Contaminated silt collected in the underground piping will be discharged to the Water Effluent Monitoring Station, and then the contaminated silt collected at the Water Effluent Monitoring Station will be removed. The collected silt will be dried, to the extent possible, and removed from the Water Effluent Monitoring Station concrete floor using manual labor. Less than 0.13 m<sup>3</sup> (4.5 ft<sup>3</sup>) of silt is estimated to require removal.

### **Asbestos Removal and Lead Paint Abatement (WEN 2.2.2.7)**

Asbestos removal and friable lead paint abatement will be performed in affected buildings. These activities are planned to be performed before WENs 2.2.2.4 (Systems Operation, Maintenance, and Deactivation) and 2.2.2.6 (Site Preparation) to ensure that subsequent tasks are not burdened by controls to limit exposure to lead paint powder and debris. For efficiency and to minimize costs, current plans are that one subcontractor, licensed to remove both asbestos and friable lead paint, will perform both of these activities because lead paint chips or paint debris would be present with the asbestos when it is removed. Also, the surfaces of piping, miscellaneous steel framing, sheet metal roof decking, ductwork, and painted steel components are coated with friable lead paint, which has fallen off in chips onto floors and other components. These loose chips will be removed as part of this task.

The lead paint may contain polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). If the lead-based paint is also radiologically contaminated, a mixed waste would be produced. The paint chips and debris will be packaged and shipped to either a waste processor or disposal facility. Radiologically contaminated asbestos and lead paint wastes will be disposed of in accordance with the methods described in Section 3.2.2 of this plan.

Other wastes requiring special handling will include switches containing mercury. The switches will be removed and disposed of as hazardous waste prior to the general decontamination and dismantling activities in order to avoid inadvertently releasing the encapsulated mercury.

Each affected building will be isolated and other activities prohibited for stabilization before disposal while asbestos and friable lead paint are removed. The subcontractor will establish a separate containment, ventilation, and filtration systems for each building. By using a separate flexible containment system, this task can proceed without considering other tasks that may be performed at the same time in the buildings. The subcontractor will be responsible for disposing of non-radiologically contaminated asbestos and lead paint waste.

### **Loose Equipment Removal (WEN 2.2.2.8)**

Loose equipment, primarily equipment not requiring significant effort to disconnect, will be removed in accordance with a sequence established to remove high source term material from specific areas as long as this strategy is consistent with the ALARA principle. The initial dismantling activities for each building or area will be related to the need to remove the components contributing the most to the general area radiation level. This source term reduction effort will involve both removing loose equipment and a limited amount of piping and mechanical equipment.

### ***Reactor Building (1111)***

Initially, loose equipment will be removed from the containment vessel to allow staging of the temporary platforms and equipment that will be used to remove the reactor internals and tank. Removing the reactor tank and internals (WEN 2.2.2.11) will decrease the radiation levels in the quadrants and sub-pile room so that subsequent loose equipment removal in these areas will be a lower exposure activity. The guide tubes and thermal sleeve remaining after removing the reactor tank will be shielded as required when loose equipment is removed from the quadrants, canals, and sub-pile room. Additional loose equipment to be removed includes piping in the pipe trench, primary pump room sump and pumps, decontamination room sump and piping, canal doors, mock-up reactor core structure, fuel storage containers, and the quadrant and canal cleanup system.

### ***Hot Laboratory (1112)***

The material in the Hot Dry Storage Area of the Hot Laboratory has a high source term. To the extent that loose equipment can be removed in a dose environment that is ALARA while material remains in Hot Dry Storage Area, this task may proceed in coordination with removing the material in the Hot Dry Storage Area (WEN 2.2.2.9). Loose equipment to be removed from the Hot Laboratory includes the items stored in the hot cells; on top of the hot cells; and on the mezzanine level, including the lockers and equipment stored in the locker room hallway. Salvageable equipment, such as periscopes, manipulators, and scanning/viewing equipment, will be removed from within the hot cells. Oil from cell windows will be drained, the glass removed, and the off-gas cleanup system removed. After the activated material inside the Hot Dry Storage Area is removed, the roof slabs of the Hot Dry Storage Area will be removed.

### ***Reactor Office and Laboratory Building (1141)***

There are no high source terms in the Reactor Office and Laboratory Building. Loose equipment removal will consist of removing the contaminated lab hoods, exhaust filters, drains, and drain lines. The drain lines will be removed to the extent required based on characterization survey data collected during this task.

### ***Waste Handling Building (1133)***

The loose equipment in the Waste Handling Building, including the evaporator, piping, pumps, filters, and sump liners, will be removed using the source term reduction strategy described above.

### **Removal of Activated Material in Hot Dry Storage Area (WEN 2.2.2.9)**

The Hot Dry Storage Area in the Hot Laboratory contains an inventory of radiologically activated and contaminated components comparable to those in the reactor tank, including reactor beryllium pieces, core fuel element handling tools, experimental hardware, and core end box cut off equipment. Existing equipment at the Hot Dry Storage Area is designed to permit remote retrieval, packaging, and shipment of these contaminated components. The feasibility of reactivating this remotely operated equipment to remove the contaminated components will be evaluated during Decommissioning Planning (WEN 1.0), with one alternative to provide new equipment. The worker doses estimated in Section 3.1.3 of this plan assume that some form of remotely operated equipment will be used for this task.

The material in the Hot Dry Storage Area is stored in metal hoppers 135 × 152 × 152 cm high (53 × 60 × 60 in. high), which are designed to be loaded and removed remotely. The transport cask and cask liner are planned to be staged in the storage area, and the liner can be loaded with the components using the remotely controlled bridge crane.

### **Decontamination (WEN 2.2.2.10)**

The objective of the Decontamination task is to decontaminate concrete and steel structures after piping, mechanical equipment, electrical systems, and components have been removed from the buildings and structures. The Decontamination task will consist of decontaminating concrete and steel surfaces, as well as removing contaminated concrete in bulk. Decontamination will be performed in conjunction with Contaminated Concrete and Embedded Pipe Removal (WEN 2.2.2.13).

The Decontamination task will produce airborne contamination that will have to be controlled. The equipment used to decontaminate concrete surfaces will incorporate vacuum systems and high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filtration. The vacuuming and filtration functions provided by the equipment, in combination with the temporary building ventilation system, will control airborne contamination. Alternatively, confinements with HEPA filtration may be erected around certain decontamination activities if the schedule requires decommissioning tasks to be performed concurrently within the same general area.

Floors and other horizontal concrete surfaces having surficial contamination will be decontaminated by removing the surface layer of concrete. The Decommissioning Contractor may evaluate several technologies for use at different areas of the PBRF. Shot blasting, an aggressive technique, can remove surface concrete down to the top layer of the floor slab reinforcement (i.e., approximately 8 cm [3 in. deep]). Although less aggressive, scabblers can efficiently remove from 0.6 to 2.5 cm (0.25 to 1 in.) of concrete. Scabblers are also effective on walls and overhead surfaces. Cold-planing is effective in removing horizontal concrete surfaces; however, these

machines are not all equipped with vacuum systems and HEPA filtration. High pressure water jets can be used to decontaminate metal surfaces. The equipment consists of self-propelled units that adhere to vertical and overhead surfaces using suction devices. The units apply the water jet and collect and recycle the water. Using decontamination methods that would generate liquid wastes will be considered during waste disposal planning. Should liquid wastes be generated during decontamination, a skid-mounted system would be used to treat liquids, and treated liquids would be transferred to a holding tank. The processed liquid wastes would be transferred from the holding tank to a tank truck and hauled to a sanitary sewer manhole for discharge. A similar procedure would be used to dispose of the sanitary waste from the modular sanitary facilities. The required discharge permits and agreements will be obtained for these activities.

Other less aggressive methods for decontaminating concrete and steel surfaces include sponge blasting and CO<sub>2</sub> ice blasting. These techniques are effective in removing paint or an equivalent layer of the surface. These methods are sufficient to decontaminate steel surfaces, but they are generally not preferred for concrete decontamination.

Remedial action status surveys will be conducted as decontamination progresses to ensure that contamination has been removed to the required levels. Additional decontamination will be performed where indicated by these surveys. Contaminated equipment will be shipped offsite to a waste processor or disposal facility. (Onsite equipment decontamination is not planned to be performed onsite.)

Concrete surfaces will be decontaminated as required to meet DCGLs. If required to meet DCGLs, activated concrete or volumetrically contaminated concrete would be removed in bulk.

### ***Reactor Building (1111)***

In the Reactor Building, surface decontamination will be performed primarily inside the containment vessel. Outside the containment vessel, decontamination will be limited to the canals. Above the first floor elevation, the interior steel surface of the containment vessel will be decontaminated—where lead paint is not removed—by dry wipe downs or cleaning with a surfactant or detergent. Below the first floor elevation, the contaminated surfaces in quadrants A, B, C, and D and canals E, F, G, and H will be decontaminated. The walls and floors of the quadrants and canal E are coated with a fiberglass cloth and epoxy coating that would be removed as the first step of decontamination.

Portions of the biological shield will be removed as bulk concrete as required to meet the DCGLs for subsurface structures. The exterior surface of the concrete biological shield is lined with steel plate that would be removed with the concrete. In accordance with the source term reduction strategy, the contaminated concrete in the biological shield wall and the embedded beam tubes and related equipment are planned to be removed before decontaminating the quadrants and canals.

### ***Hot Laboratory (1112)***

After removing the material from the Hot Dry Storage Area equipment throughout the building, bulk concrete, embedded piping, miscellaneous steel, and concrete surfaces of the Hot

Laboratory will be decontaminated. Decontamination would be the final task before demolishing the building. Decontamination is planned to commence on the Hot Dry Storage Area walls, roof slabs, and floor and in the adjoining canals J and K. Depending upon the levels of airborne contamination expected to be generated from surface decontamination, a confinement structure may be erected over the area. Then, the remaining areas of the Hot Laboratory would be decontaminated (i.e., the cleanup room; hot cell doors; walls; floors and ceilings; hot pipe [utilities] tunnel areas 25a, 25b, and 25c floor; hot machine shop; sample storage room floor; and miscellaneous rooms).

#### ***Primary Pump House (1134)***

Access to the rooms of the Primary Pump House will be provided, as required, by increasing the size of roof openings and creating new wall openings prior to equipment removal. Weatherproof roof covers or enclosures will be provided, where needed, to prevent release of contamination during equipment removal operations and to minimize precipitation leakage. After removing piping, equipment, embedded piping, and sump pit liners in the Primary Pump House, the floors and walls will be decontaminated.

#### ***Reactor Office and Laboratory Building (1141)***

After contaminated equipment has been removed from the Reactor Office and Laboratory, Rooms 207, 209, 210, 212, 213A, and 214/215 will be decontaminated by removing the floor tiles, adhesive, and a surface layer of the concrete floor. The asbestos in the floor tiles is not friable and will be disposed of as low-level radioactive waste.

#### ***Fan House (1132)***

After removing contaminated equipment and the sump liner, the concrete surfaces in the Fan House will be decontaminated. The air monitoring room, sump room, and equipment room composing the basement will be decontaminated. The resin pit tank will be removed, and the floor and walls of the room housing the resin pit tank and the deionizer will be decontaminated.

#### ***Waste Handling Building (1133)***

After the equipment, piping, and components have been removed from the Waste Handling Building, concrete surfaces will be decontaminated. Decontamination is planned to be performed in conjunction with the removal of embedded piping, sumps, and other contaminated metal. The floors of the basement, including the Room 19 access tunnel, will be decontaminated. On the ground floor, the evaporator room and laundry room floors will be decontaminated, and the walls of the evaporator room will be decontaminated where required.

#### ***Cold Retention Basins (1154)***

After the two Cold Retention Basins are drained and the piping, valves, and other equipment are removed, the concrete surfaces and the steel pier structure will be decontaminated.

## ***Hot Pipe Tunnel***

Piping, components, tanks, and embedded items will be removed, and the floor and walls of the hot pipe tunnel and tank room will be decontaminated.

### **Reactor Internals and Tank Removal (WEN 2.2.2.11)**

The reactor internals and reactor tank will be segmented and removed. This task is planned to occur before equipment and piping are removed from inside the containment vessel because other tasks inside the containment vessel will be restricted when the segmentation operations are in progress and when material is being transferred to shipping containers. This task can start after selecting and mobilizing the specialty subcontractor who will perform this work.

In preparation for removing the reactor internals and tank, a platform is planned to be constructed to support necessary activities and provide a confinement structure, if required, during segmentation operations. The platform would also support the specialized equipment and shielding required for this task. One possible approach for removing the tank and its internals is described below.

It has been determined that removing the reactor tank intact will not be feasible because the tank, thermal column, beam tubes, and supports, are embedded in the concrete biological shield. Instead, the reactor tank internals and core box will be disassembled by unbolting the components, where feasible. Where unbolting is not feasible, the internals and core box will be separated from the reactor tank using remotely-operated equipment (such as band saws or hydraulic shears) that do not generate significant amounts of airborne contamination. If components do not fit into the cavity of the licensed shipping containers to be used to transport them to a radioactive waste disposal site, components will be further segmented using mechanical methods.

After the reactor internals are separated from the reactor tank, a shielded grapple will be fabricated to transfer the reactor internals segments from the tank over the top of the biological shield into a shipping cask or cask liner. The cask or cask liner could be staged on the floor of either quadrants A or C where shielding may be provided. The cask or liner would be moved from the quadrants into canal E and out of the containment vessel via canal F, where it would arrive in the Reactor Building truck bay. For this method, the loaded weight of the shipping cask or cask liner will be limited by the 20-ton capacity truck bay crane. An alternative method is to stage the cask or cask liner on the first floor by the truck door. The reactor internals would be moved from the reactor tank to the cask using the truck bay crane and a transfer shield. If required, the weight of the cask will be distributed over the floor slabs using steel frames or dunnage in order to maintain a safe floor loading.

After the reactor internals are removed, the reactor tank will be segmented using remotely operated equipment. Mechanical cutting methods producing limited amounts of airborne contamination, such as milling machines and lathes, are planned to be used. Alternatively, thermal cutting methods could be used, but a confinement structure would need to be constructed over the reactor cavity. Thermal cutting would proceed more rapidly than mechanical cutting. The tank sections are planned to be removed using a shielded grapple and packaged in either quadrants A or C.

After segmenting and removing the reactor tank, the beam tubes, primary coolant water piping, and other penetrations in the biological shield will be vacuumed and the embedded piping, lead shield, and supports dismantled. The work platform would then be dismantled.

Segmentation of the reactor internals and reactor tank will be performed using remotely operated equipment, but personnel assistance will be required to set up the equipment.

### **Contaminated Piping and Equipment Removal (WEN 2.2.2.12)**

The removal of contaminated piping and equipment will be performed using the source term reduction strategy, where the high source term components are removed first to reduce radiation levels for the remainder of the task. The strategy would be modified if personnel exposures would not be ALARA. This task is planned to be coordinated with Loose Equipment Removal (WEN 2.2.2.8). Except for inside the Reactor Building (inside the containment vessel) and the Hot Laboratory, WENs 2.2.2.8 and 2.2.2.12 are planned to be performed after Asbestos Removal and Lead Paint Abatement (WEN 2.2.2.7). Inside the Reactor Building containment vessel and Hot Laboratory, this task (WEN 2.2.2.12) would be performed after removing the reactor tank and internals (WEN 2.2.2.11) and the material in the Hot Dry Storage Area (WEN 2.2.2.9).

Contaminated Piping and Equipment Removal will be performed using a variety of equipment, including hydraulic shears, band saws, and thermal cutting tools. Piping and equipment will be dismantled and packaged in appropriate containers located in the work area. After the containers are filled, they will be sealed, surveyed, and then released from the contaminated area to a staging location for shipment offsite.

### ***Reactor Building (1111)***

After asbestos removal and lead paint abatement, contaminated piping and equipment outside the Reactor Building containment vessel will be removed. This task will be scheduled so as to not interfere with the removal of the reactor tank and internals (WEN 2.2.2.11). In accordance with the strategy of removing the highest source terms so that remaining work can be performed in a low dose environment, contaminated piping and equipment inside the containment vessel will be removed after the reactor tank and internals are removed.

### ***Hot Laboratory (1112)***

In accordance with the source term reduction strategy, after removing the material in the Hot Dry Storage Area and loose equipment, contaminated piping and equipment will be removed from the Hot Laboratory. The hot cell roof slabs and doors, cladding from the hot cells and decontamination room, and the sump will be removed. Fluid systems (including piping, floor drains, and tanks) will be removed, followed by the off-gas cleanup system ductwork and equipment.

### ***Primary Pump House (1134)***

After removing loose equipment in the Primary Pump House, the primary pumps, valves, piping, drains, heat exchangers, degasifiers, deionizers, sampling hood, hot sumps, resin pit liners, and other equipment will be dismantled and removed.

### ***Reactor Office and Laboratory Building (1141)***

In the Reactor Office and Laboratory Building, piping from the contaminated drains to the sumps, piping from the sumps to the hot pipe tunnel, and ductwork from this building to the Fan House (1132) will be removed.

### ***Hot Pipe Tunnel***

In the hot pipe tunnel, piping, pumps, sump liners, and floor drains will be removed.

### ***Fan House (1132)***

In the Fan House, tanks, ductwork, filters, piping, pumps, deionizers, sump liners, and equipment will be removed. The compressors and the steel stack will be dismantled and shipped offsite to either a waste processor or a disposal facility.

### ***Waste Handling Building (1133)***

In the Waste Handling Building, loose equipment (including the evaporator, piping, pumps, filters, and sump liners) will be removed.

### ***Cold Retention Basins (1154)***

Pumps, piping, and related equipment will be removed from the two Cold Retention Basins.

### ***Hot Retention Area (1155)***

Piping, pumps, and miscellaneous equipment will be removed from inside the Hot Retention Area concrete vault, and the tanks will be segmented. Thermal cutting methods are planned to be used for segmentation. Because the inside of each tank is radioactively contaminated, a containment structure will have to be erected around each tank as it is segmented.

### ***Water Effluent Monitoring Station (1192)***

Piping and flow control equipment will be removed from the Water Effluent Monitoring Station.

## **Contaminated Concrete and Embedded Pipe Removal (WEN 2.2.2.13)**

After contaminated piping and equipment are removed, contaminated concrete and embedded piping will be removed as required to meet the DCGLs for subsurface structures. Building decontamination then could be performed. Bulk contaminated concrete may have to be excavated from sumps, the biological shield in the Reactor Building, and other areas to access and then remove contaminated, embedded piping.

Contaminated concrete may be removed using equipment such as remotely controlled mini-hoe rams, conventional compressed air-operated jackhammers; diamond wire saws; and concrete boring tools, capable of creating up to a 61-cm (24-in.) diameter bore. Conventional hoe rams are effective for concrete building demolition; however, they are too large to operate in most structures where contaminated concrete is being removed.

Remedial action status surveys will be conducted as the work progresses to ensure that contaminated materials have been removed to the required levels. If removing contaminated embedded piping is required, it is expected to require a large effort. Activities in specific buildings are described below.

### ***Reactor Building (1111)***

In the Reactor Building, the greatest effort of this task would be required to remove the primary coolant water piping and related piping systems embedded in the quadrant and canal concrete slabs. A lesser effort would be required to remove portions of the biological shield, beam tubes, and related components. Removal activities will be performed as required to meet the DCGLS. The exterior of the biological shield is lined with steel plate that would have to be removed with the concrete wall. (Noise levels in the building when the hoe and rams are in operation may require that workers be provided with noise protection.)

### ***Hot Laboratory (1112)***

In the Hot Laboratory, concrete will be excavated to remove embedded drains and piping as required to meet the DCGLs.

### ***Primary Pump House (1134)***

In the Primary Pump House, embedded primary coolant water piping and drain piping will be removed as required to meet the DCGLs.

### ***Fan House (1132)***

In the Fan House, the concrete portion of the contaminated stack would be dismantled and disposed of as radioactively contaminated waste.

### ***Waste Handling Building (1133)***

In the Waste Handling Building, concrete would be excavated to remove contaminated sumps and drains as required to meet the DCGLs.

### ***Cold Retention Basins (1154)***

Contaminated concrete, the liner, and any remaining underground piping would be removed from the Cold Retention Basins as required to meet the DCGLs. The roof structure may have to be removed to avoid an unstable condition.

### **Final Status Survey (WEN 2.2.2.14)**

A final status survey of the PBRF site will be performed, in accordance with the Final Status Survey Plan approved by the NRC. Final status surveys will be conducted (1) on excavations following soil removal, (2) on any abovegrade building surfaces following decontamination and equipment removal, either prior to or after building demolition as approved by the NRC, (3) on subsurface structures following decontamination but before backfill, and (4) on the remainder of the PBRF site. If residual contamination in surface soils and subsurface structures are below the DCGLs presented in Section 2.3.3.1, then these areas will be backfilled. The Final Status Survey Plan is discussed in detail in Section 4 of this plan.

### **Building Demolition (WEN 2.2.2.15)**

After decontaminating or removing contaminated concrete surfaces in the abovegrade portions of buildings, a remedial action status survey or final status survey will be conducted to confirm that any contamination complies with the DCGLs approved by the NRC. Then the demolition of all buildings and structures within the PBRF fence would proceed as a radiologically controlled activity. The radiological controls required for building and structural demolition will be established using DCGLs determined specifically for these activities.

The general sequence of demolition will be to start with the structures furthest away from the Reactor Building and work toward the Reactor Building. A possible sequence would be the Water Tower (1151), Reactor Services Equipment Building (1131), Cold Retention Basins (1154), Hot Retention Area (1155) concrete vault, Waste Handling Building (1133) (including the lower stack), Primary Pump House (1134), Hot Laboratory (1112), Reactor Office and Laboratory Building (1141), and then the Reactor Building (1111). Openings resulting from contaminated exhaust removals will be sealed to protect the interior from exposure to the environment. Before demolishing buildings, a remedial action status survey of the building surfaces will be performed to confirm contamination levels have been reduced to the required levels.

Two typical demolition sequences are described below: one for a typical steel-framed building with sheet metal siding above grade and concrete cubicles or vaults below grade and one specifically for the Reactor Building. Using the first sequence, the portion of the Reactor Building

outside the containment vessel, the Waste Handling Building, Fan House, and the Primary Pump House would be demolished as described below:

1. The roofing will be removed and disposed of as demolition waste.
2. The exterior steel superstructures would be removed to grade level using a combination of equipment, such as a hydraulic hoe and grapple or a hydraulic hoe and shear.
3. The remaining concrete substructure or concrete vaults (i.e., concrete walls, slabs, and columns) would be dismantled to a depth of 1 m (3 ft) below grade or to the required depth using equipment, such as a hoe ram and pulverizer.
4. Equipment such as oxygen-acetylene or similar methods would be used for cutting reinforcing and embedments.

Underground concrete vaults would be demolished as described in the last two steps of this sequence.

The metal superstructure surrounding the Reactor Building would be demolished to grade as described above. The remaining portions of the Reactor Building then are planned to be demolished using the sequence described below:

1. The steel dome of the containment vessel could either be flame cut into sections and the sections removed using an exterior crane, or the entire dome could be lifted from the containment in one piece and then dismantled on the ground.
2. After an opening of sufficient size has been created, the polar crane will be removed.
3. Equipment such as a hoe and shear will be used to cut the vertical steel plate.
4. The containment vessel will be dismantled to grade using equipment such as a hoe and ram to separate the steel plate from concrete.
5. The remaining concrete substructure or concrete vaults (i.e., concrete walls, slabs, and columns) will be dismantled to a depth of 1 m (3 ft) below grade or to the required depth using equipment, such as a hoe ram and pulverizer.
6. Equipment such as oxygen-acetylene or similar methods will be used for cutting reinforcing and embedments.

The concrete walls of the Hot Laboratory would be demolished as described in the last two steps of this sequence.

Concrete and masonry rubble generated during building demolition are planned to be used for backfilling the belowgrade portions of structures and excavations (see Building Backfill [WEN 2.2.2.16]). As steel and other demolition debris are assembled for offsite disposal, the debris will be surveyed to verify that it can be disposed of at an industrial landfill.

#### **Building Backfill (WEN 2.2.2.16)**

After demolishing buildings as described in WEN 2.2.2.15, conducting a final status survey on the decontaminated belowgrade portions of buildings and inground structures, and comparing

the results to the building reuse DCGLs, the belowgrade portions of buildings and structures will be backfilled. Backfill will consist of concrete and masonry demolition rubble, soil excavated from onsite areas, or clean fill from an offsite source. Demolition rubble will be sampled before use as backfill to demonstrate that potential doses from groundwater release to a residential agricultural intruder are below license termination criteria.

### **Reactor Building Backfill (WEN 2.2.2.17)**

For cost estimating purposes, the task of backfilling the Reactor Building (WEN 2.2.2.17) has been separated from the task of backfilling other buildings (WEN 2.2.2.16). After demolishing the aboveground portion of the Reactor Building and performing a final status survey on the belowground portions of the building, the remaining belowgrade portions of the building will be backfilled with concrete and masonry rubble, soil excavated from onsite areas, or clean fill from an offsite source. As described above, concrete rubble will be sampled before use as backfill.

#### ***2.3.1.4 Safety Hazards During Decommissioning Activities***

All decommissioning activities will be performed under procedures and controls approved by NASA management, the Radiation Safety Officer, and the Decommissioning Safety Committee to ensure employee and public safety. Any task involving a potential safety hazard will be reviewed in advance for adequacy of safety controls. When the work involves hazards not addressed in the Safety and Health Plan procedures, additional detailed procedures will be required that provide radiation and industrial safety requirements and limitations. Safe Work Permits will be required where safety of personnel and the facility is dependent upon observance of controls to perform work safely under potentially hazardous conditions. The responsibilities of the Radiation Safety Officer and Decommissioning Safety Committee are discussed in Sections 2.4.1 and 2.4.2, respectively.

The PBRF decommissioning tasks will involve industrial and radiological hazards. Table 2-22 lists the types of hazards associated with particular decommissioning tasks and the measures to minimize potential accidents and injuries. The Decommissioning Contractor's Safety and Health Supervisor will identify and maintain control over radiation or contaminated areas and, as necessary, control operations in these areas by means of Safe Work Permits. Work will be monitored by a Safety and Health representative. In addition, workers will be instructed in radiological safety and the use of protective equipment.

### **2.3.2 Schedule**

The sequence of the activities and tasks described in Section 2.3.1 are shown in the schedule in Figure 2-4. The general sequence is planned to occur as follows. The planning phase (detailed engineering, preparing bid specifications, selecting the Decommissioning Contractor) and site preparation would last about 14 months. Decontamination and dismantling activities then are planned to begin and last for about 32 months. It is estimated that the total decommissioning project will be completed in 4 years. During site preparation, selected existing utilities and systems will be refurbished for use in decommissioning. The first decontamination activity will be removal of asbestos and friable lead paint. This removal can be implemented while detailed engineering and project planning are in process.

**Table 2-22. Radiological and Industrial Safety Hazards Expected During PBRF Decommissioning Activities**

<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Tasks Affected</b>	<b>Measures to Minimize Hazard</b>
<b>Radiological:</b>		
High radiation exposure – direct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reactor Internals and Tank Removal (WEN 2.2.2.11)</li> <li>Removal of Activated Material in Hot Dry Storage Area (WEN 2.2.2.9)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work will be planned considering the ALARA principle</li> <li>Use of specialized shielding</li> <li>Mock-up training</li> <li>Special tools</li> </ul>
Airborne radioactivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decontamination (WEN 2.2.2.10) of concrete and steel structures</li> <li>Contaminated Piping and Equipment Removal (WEN 2.2.2.12)</li> <li>Reactor Internals and Tank Removal (WEN 2.2.2.11)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Worker training in Contractor Safety Procedure for Respiratory Protection and Air Monitoring</li> <li>Filtered ventilation</li> <li>Contamination control envelopes</li> </ul>
Loose contamination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reactor Internals and Tank Removal (WEN 2.2.2.11)</li> <li>Removal of Activated Material in Hot Dry Storage Area (WEN 2.2.2.9)</li> <li>Contaminated Piping and Equipment Removal (WEN 2.2.2.12)</li> <li>Contaminated Concrete and Embedded Pipe Removal (WEN 2.2.2.13)</li> <li>Decontamination (2.2.2.10)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work will be planned considering the ALARA principle</li> <li>Remedial action status surveys of work in progress</li> <li>Personnel protective clothing</li> <li>Portable vacuum filtration equipment</li> <li>Contamination control envelopes</li> </ul>
<b>Industrial:</b>		
Confined spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contaminated Piping and Equipment Removal (WEN 2.2.2.12)</li> <li>Decontamination (2.2.2.10) of hot pipe tunnel, Cold Retention Basins, and Hot Retention Area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Worker training in Contractor Safety Procedure for Confined Space Entry Precautions</li> <li>Control access to confined spaces</li> <li>Use procedures for atmospheric testing</li> </ul>
Energized electrical systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loose Equipment Removal (WEN 2.2.2.8)</li> <li>Contaminated Piping and Equipment Removal (WEN 2.2.2.12)</li> <li>Contaminated Concrete and Embedded Pipe Removal (WEN 2.2.2.13)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deenergize PBRF electrical systems</li> <li>Use of ground fault circuit interrupters</li> <li>Lockout/tagout of systems</li> <li>Worker training in Contractor Safety Procedure</li> </ul>
Excavation instability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demolition (WEN 2.2.2.15) of Cold Retention Basins, Hot Retention Area Vault, and Water Effluent Monitoring Station</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Excavation permit controls</li> <li>Worker training in Contractor Safety Procedure</li> <li>Use of benching or sloping sides for excavations</li> <li>Use of shoring or trenching shields</li> </ul>

**Table 2-22. Radiological and Industrial Safety Hazards Expected During PBRF Decommissioning Activities (Continued)**

<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Tasks Affected</b>	<b>Measures to Minimize Hazard</b>
Industrial (Cont'd):		
Welding, cutting, burning, hot work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loose Equipment Removal (WEN 2.2.28)</li> <li>• Contaminated Piping and Equipment Removal (WEN 2.2.2.12)</li> <li>• Demolition (WEN 2.2.2.15)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worker training in Contractor Safety Procedure</li> <li>• Hot Work Permits to control operations</li> </ul>
Scaffolds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contaminated Piping and Equipment Removal (WEN 2.2.2.12)</li> <li>• Decontamination (WEN 2.2.2.10) of concrete and steel structures</li> <li>• Asbestos Removal and Lead Paint Abatement (WEN 2.2.2.7)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worker training in Contractor Safety Procedures for erection, use, dismantlement, and storage of scaffolds and work platforms</li> <li>• Use of properly engineered scaffolds</li> <li>• Qualified personnel to erect and dismantle</li> </ul>
Falls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contaminated Piping and Equipment Removal (WEN 2.2.2.12)</li> <li>• Decontamination (WEN 2.2.2.10) of concrete and steel structures</li> <li>• Asbestos Removal and Lead Paint Abatement (WEN 2.2.2.7)</li> <li>• Building Demolition (WEN 2.2.2.15)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worker training in Contractor Safety Procedure for Protection from Falls</li> <li>• Inspection of elevated working surfaces for structural integrity</li> <li>• Provision of guardrail and personal fall arrest systems</li> <li>• Provision of covers or guardrails over unprotected openings</li> <li>• Use of toeboards and/or canopies to prevent or protect from falling objects</li> </ul>
Material handling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Packaging wastes (all decontamination and dismantling tasks)</li> <li>• Handling waste packages (all decontamination and dismantling tasks)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worker training in Contractor Safety Procedure for Proper Handling of Materials</li> </ul>
Asbestos hazards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asbestos Removal and Lead Paint Abatement (WEN 2.2.2.7)</li> <li>• Decontamination of Structures (WEN 2.2.2.10)</li> <li>• Contaminated Piping and Equipment Removal (WEN 2.2.2.12)</li> <li>• Building Demolition (WEN 2.2.2.15)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worker training in Contractor Hazard Awareness Program</li> <li>• Competent person for asbestos identification</li> <li>• Work practices and exposure controls</li> <li>• Engineering controls</li> </ul>
Lead hazards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asbestos Removal and Lead Paint Abatement (WEN 2.2.2.7)</li> <li>• Decontamination of Structures (WEN 2.2.2.10)</li> <li>• Contaminated Piping and Equipment Removal (WEN 2.2.2.12)</li> <li>• Building Demolition (WEN 2.2.2.15)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worker training in Contractor Hazard Awareness Program</li> <li>• Competent person for lead identification</li> <li>• Work practices and exposure controls</li> <li>• Engineering controls</li> </ul>

**Table 2-22. Radiological and Industrial Safety Hazards Expected During  
PBRF Decommissioning Activities (Continued)**

<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Tasks Affected</b>	<b>Measures to Minimize Hazard</b>
<b>Industrial (Cont'd):</b>		
Mobile equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Handling waste packages (all decontamination and dismantling tasks)</li> <li>• Concrete excavation</li> <li>• Demolition (WEN 2.2.2.15)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worker training in Contractor Safety Procedure for Safe Handling of Mobile Equipment</li> </ul>
Power tool use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All decontamination and dismantling tasks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worker training in Proper Use and Maintenance of Power Tools</li> <li>• Ensure tools purchased incorporate safety features</li> </ul>
Airborne particulate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decontamination (WEN 2.2.2.10) of concrete and steel structures</li> <li>• Contaminated Piping and Equipment Removal (WEN 2.2.2.12)</li> <li>• Reactor Internals and Tank Removal (WEN 2.2.2.11)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worker training in Contractor Safety Procedure for Respiratory Protection and Air Monitoring</li> </ul>
Flammable and combustible liquids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All decontamination and dismantling tasks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Controls on storage and handling and requirements for storage areas</li> <li>• Restricted areas and special equipment for dispensing flammable and combustible liquids</li> <li>• Limitations on use</li> <li>• Worker training in Contractor Safety Procedure for work with flammable and combustible liquids</li> </ul>
Toxic and hazardous substances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All decontamination and dismantling tasks</li> <li>• Loose Equipment Removal (WEN 2.2.2.8) (includes removal of switches containing mercury)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worker training in Contractor Safety Procedure for Safe Use of Toxic or Hazardous Substances</li> <li>• Work methods</li> <li>• Use of personal protective equipment</li> </ul>
Heat stress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible for all decontamination and dismantling tasks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worker training in Contractor Safety Procedure for Work in Hot Environments</li> <li>• Control of work schedule (stay time)</li> <li>• Use of cooling rooms</li> <li>• Engineering controls</li> </ul>
Cold stress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contaminated Soil Removal (WEN 2.2.2.5)</li> <li>• Building Demolition (WEN 2.2.2.15)</li> <li>• Building Backfill (WEN 2.2.2.16)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limit outdoor activities in adverse weather conditions</li> <li>• Require proper dress</li> <li>• Provide construction space heating for all buildings occupied during decommissioning</li> </ul>

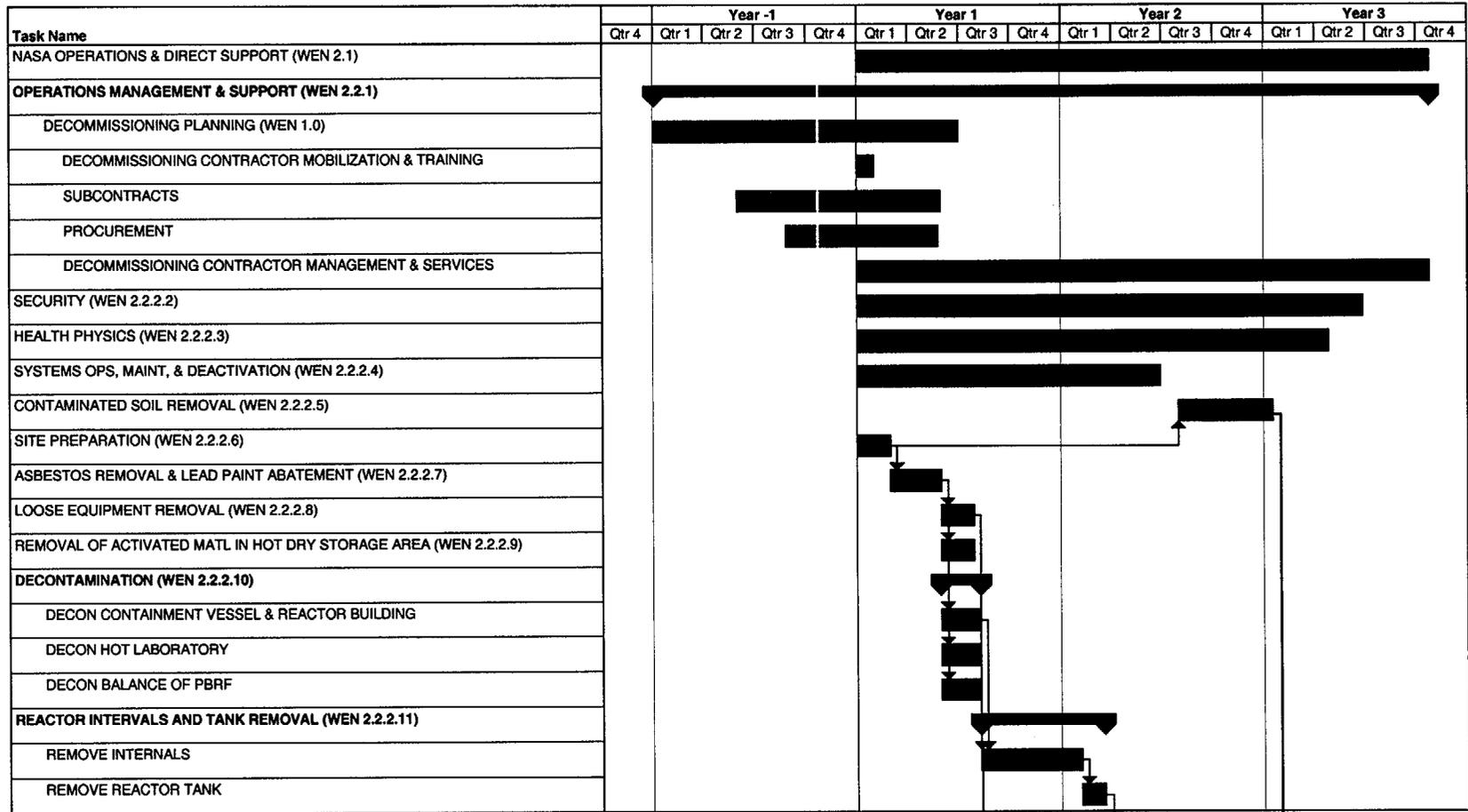


Figure 2-4. Decommissioning Activity Schedule

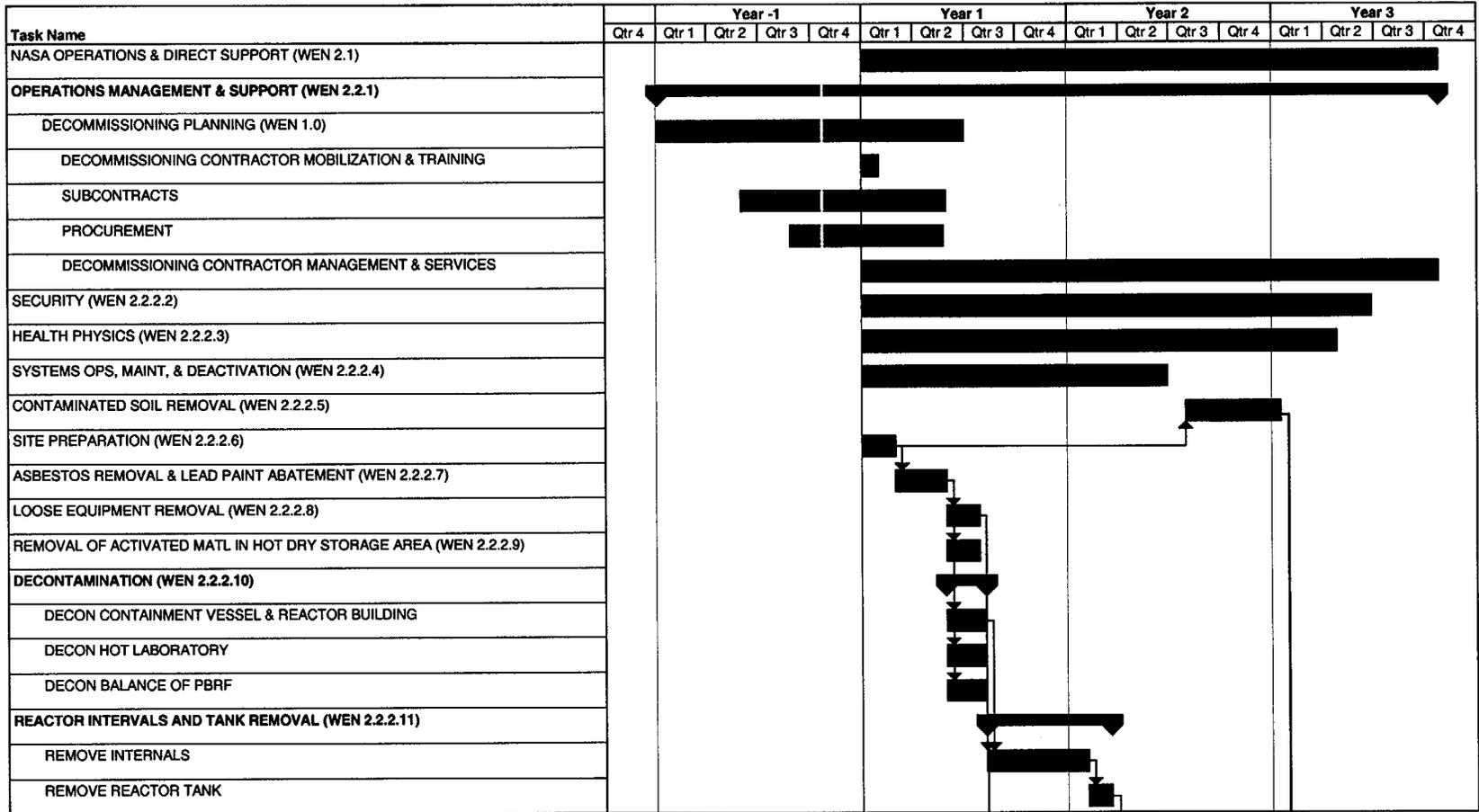


Figure 2-4. Decommissioning Activity Schedule

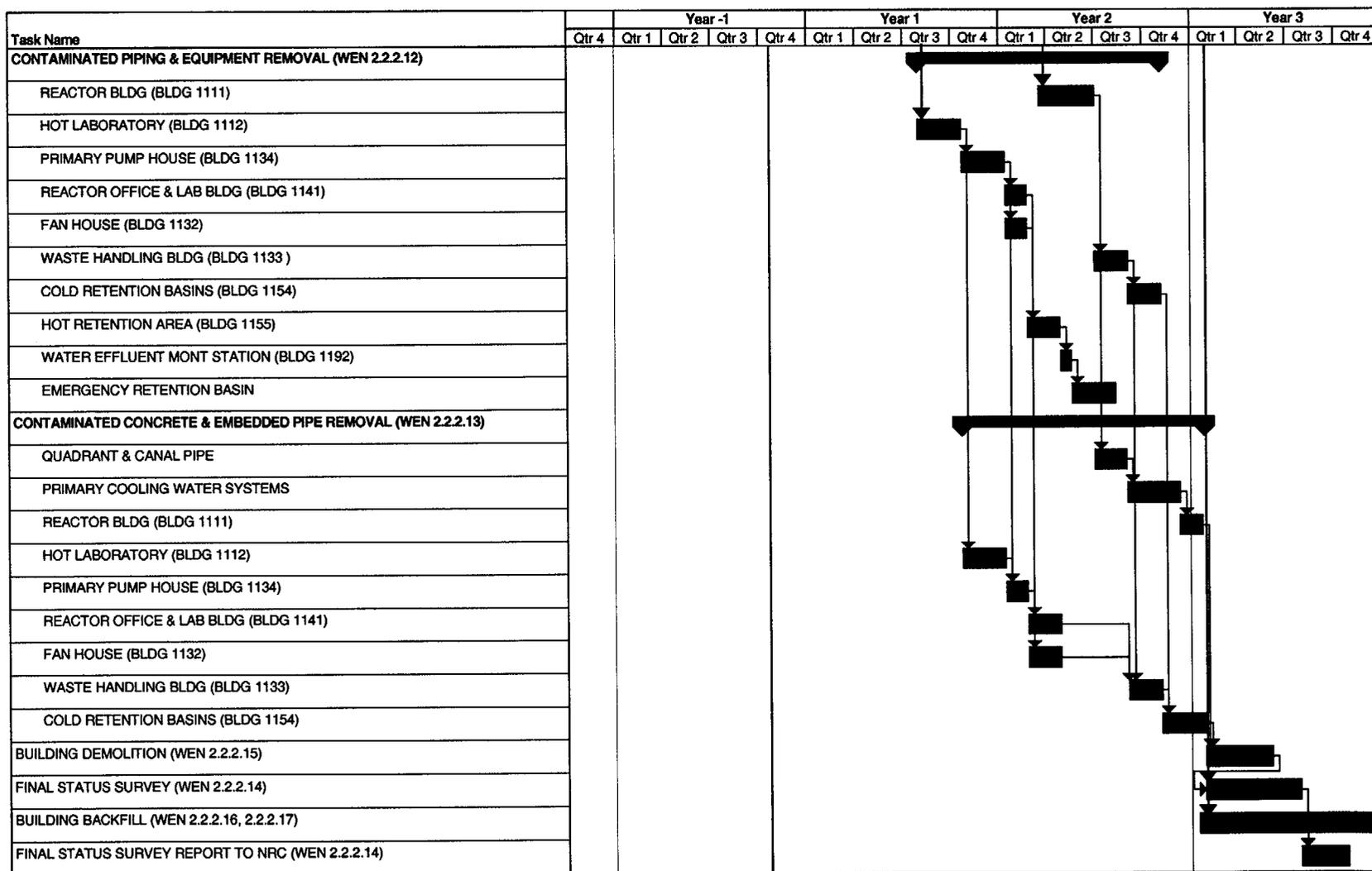


Figure 2-4. Decommissioning Activity Schedule (Continued)

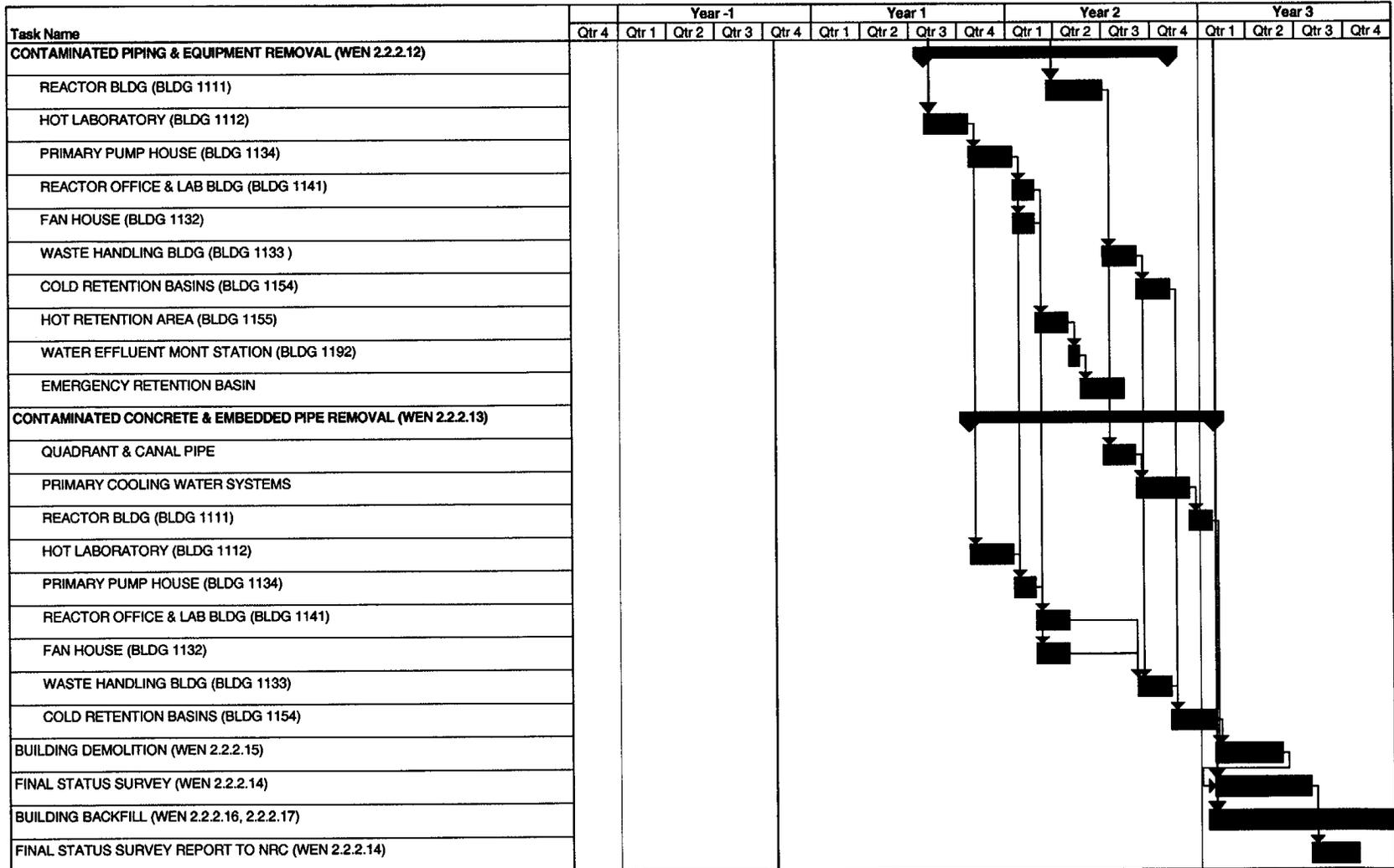


Figure 2-4. Decommissioning Activity Schedule (Continued)

Loose equipment removal and contaminated piping and equipment removal can proceed concurrently in PBRF buildings.

After removing contaminated concrete and embedded piping and decontaminating concrete surfaces, final status surveys will be conducted on abovegrade and belowgrade portions of buildings, and the abovegrade portions of the buildings will be demolished and used for backfill for the belowgrade portions.

Removal of contaminated soil is expected to be completed near the end of the project. After conducting a final status survey at areas where contaminated soil was removed (and verification survey, if required by the NRC), excavations will be backfilled. This work will be accomplished in a sequence that minimizes recontamination of site areas.

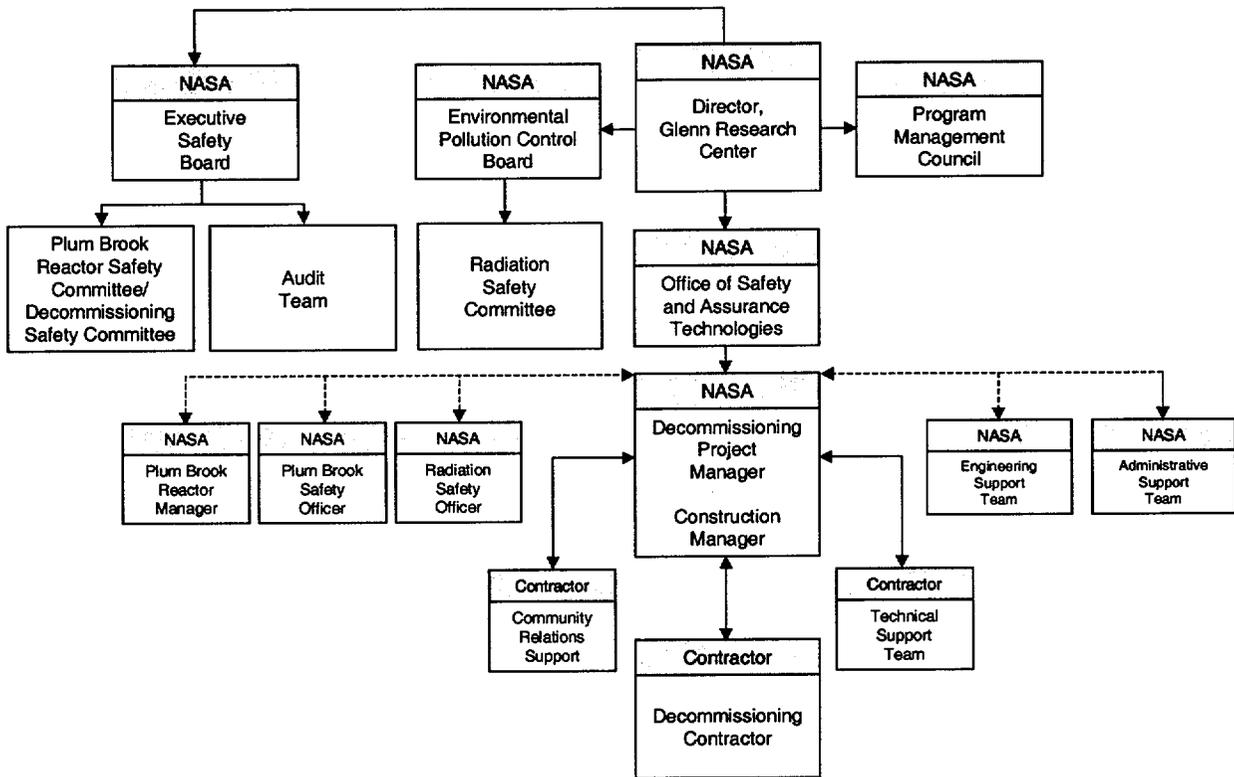
The duration of the tasks shown on Figure 2-4 include time for performing remedial action status surveys during decontamination activities. Time for packaging waste and transporting waste to an offsite disposal facility is also included in each task.

## **2.4 Decommissioning Organization and Responsibilities**

This section describes the organizational structure that will be in place at the start of the decommissioning of the PBRF and identifies the responsibilities of key personnel in the organization. NASA is responsible for planning and managing the total decommissioning effort and has established the organizational structure to ensure that all contractors comply with the plans and programs. The NASA decommissioning organizational structure is shown in Figure 2-5. A Decommissioning Contractor, to be selected at a later date, will perform the actual decommissioning activities. (The Decommissioning Contractor's organization is described in Section 2.6). A Decommissioning Technical Support Team (contracted) will assist NASA in the safety oversight, quality assurance, and independent evaluation of the Decommissioning Contractor. A PBRF Decommissioning Safety Committee will be established to review and approve the administration and implementation of radiation protection and safety programs related to decommissioning.

### **2.4.1 Decommissioning Team**

The Decommissioning Team will consist of NASA personnel that will have direct authority over all decommissioning activities; a Decommissioning Technical Support Team (Contractors) that will support NASA by independently evaluating the Decommissioning Contractor; a Decommissioning Contractor that will provide decontamination and dismantling services and related support activities during the decommissioning of the PBRF, and a Community Relations Contractor. Section 2.4.1.1 describes key NASA positions within the Decommissioning Team, and Section 2.4.1.2 describes key positions of the Decommissioning Technical Support Team.



**Figure 2-5. Organizational Structure for the Plum Brook Reactor Facility Decommissioning Project**

### 2.4.1.1 Key Positions in NASA Organization

#### Decommissioning Project Manager (NASA)

The NASA Decommissioning Project Manager will plan and direct the decontamination and decommissioning of the PBRF and will maintain ultimate responsibility for the decommissioning project. The NASA Decommissioning Project Manager will review work schedules and budgets, and will be responsible for all relevant project records. The NASA Decommissioning Project Manager will interface directly with NASA Glenn Research Center management and will serve as the single point of contact between NASA and all members of the Decommissioning Team. The NASA Decommissioning Project Manager's responsibilities will include:

- Planning, directing, and monitoring decontamination and decommissioning activities
- Resolving work problems
- Coordinating design development for decontamination and decommissioning activities
- Reviewing decommissioning work schedules, budgets, audit reports, and other relevant documentation
- Ensuring that the QA program is effectively implemented

- Preparing progress reports and making presentations as requested by NASA Glenn Research Center management
- Approving procurement and requests for services
- Evaluating bids and cost proposals
- Providing the licensing interface with the NRC, U.S. EPA, State of Ohio, and other regulatory agencies
- Serving as the technical spokesman for NASA on decommissioning activities
- Reporting directly to NASA Glenn Research Center management.

The NASA Decommissioning Project Manager will have the authority to enforce safe performance of PBRF decommissioning activities and to shut down operations or activities because of either safety or environmental issues, if immediate corrective action is not taken, until a technical review has been conducted. Resumption of work will require NASA Decommissioning Project Manager or NASA Construction Manager approval following completion of reviews and implementation of any required corrective actions.

Minimum qualifications for the NASA Decommissioning Project Manager are twelve years in either nuclear power or decontamination and decommissioning experience, with at least four years of project management experience.

### **Radiation Safety Officer (NASA)**

The Radiation Safety Officer will be responsible for organizing, administering, and directing the radiation protection program at the PBRF during the decommissioning activities, including radiation safety and environmental health. The Radiation Safety Officer's responsibilities will include:

- Initiating or approving the radiation safety and health aspects of PBRF procedures, standards, and rules and ensuring the program is adequately operated
- Participating in design and decommissioning plan reviews where potential radiation exposure and safety could be affected
- Developing methods for keeping radiation exposures ALARA for workers and all facility personnel
- Conducting surveillance programs and investigations to ensure that occupational radiation exposures are below specified limits and ALARA
- Identifying locations, operations, and conditions that have the potential for causing significant exposures to radiation and initiating actions to minimize or eliminate unnecessary exposures.
- Assisting the NASA Decommissioning Project Manager in ensuring that the QA program is effectively implemented.

The Radiation Safety Officer will have the authority to enforce safe performance of PBRF decommissioning activities and to shut down operations or activities because of either safety or environmental issues, if immediate corrective action is not taken, until a technical review has been conducted. Resumption of work will require NASA Decommissioning Project Manager or NASA Construction Manager approval following completion of reviews and implementation of any required corrective actions.

The Radiation Safety Officer will have specific training in the radiation health sciences and will have experience in applying this knowledge to managing a radiation protection program. Minimum qualifications for the Radiation Safety Officer are a bachelor's degree in physical science or biological science or the equivalent, with a minimum of two years of applied health physics experience in a program with radiation safety considerations similar to those for the PBRF decommissioning project.

### **Plum Brook Safety Officer (NASA)**

The Plum Brook Safety Officer will be responsible for safety and security of the PBRF, including industrial safety, industrial hygiene, and physical security, during decommissioning activities. The Plum Brook Safety Officer's responsibilities will include:

- Implementing the NASA industrial safety, industrial hygiene, and physical security programs through PBRF procedures, standards, and rules
- Participating in review of contractor programs and procedures to ensure NASA programs are followed during decommissioning activities at the PBRF
- Conducting surveillance programs and investigations to ensure that contractors safety programs are implemented
- Identifying locations, operations, and conditions that have the potential for causing significant exposures to industrial hazards and initiating actions to minimize or eliminate unnecessary exposures or risks
- Assisting the NASA Decommissioning Project Manager in ensuring that the QA program is effectively implemented.

The Plum Brook Safety Officer will have the authority to enforce safe performance of PBRF decommissioning activities and to shut down operations or activities because of either safety or environmental issues, if immediate corrective action is not taken, until a technical review has been conducted. Resumption of work will require NASA Decommissioning Project Manager or NASA Construction Manager approval following completion of reviews and implementation of any required corrective actions.

The Plum Brook Safety Officer will have specific training in the safety, security, and industrial health sciences and will have experience in applying this knowledge to managing a NASA safety program during decommissioning. Minimum qualifications for the Plum Brook Safety Officer are a bachelor's degree in physical science or biological science or the equivalent, with a minimum of two years of applied safety and industrial health experience similar to that which will be encountered in the PBRF decommissioning project.

## **Plum Brook Reactor Manager (NASA)**

The Plum Brook Reactor Manager is a position described in the Technical Specifications as the PBRF Engineer (Reactor Manager). The individual in this position will continue to be responsible for the daily management of the PBRF and shall assure that the protected safe storage condition is maintained in accordance with the current Technical Specifications. The Plum Brook Reactor Manager will be involved with the planning, approval, and execution of an NRC-approved Decommissioning Plan. Any change to the Plum Brook Reactor Manager duties or potential abolishment of the position during decommissioning will be part of a license amendment and Technical Specification change requiring NRC approval. Changes to the duties of the Plum Brook Reactor Manager will be incorporated into this plan as an administrative change subsequent to and in accordance with an NRC-approved license amendment or Technical Specification change.

## **Construction Manager (NASA)**

The Construction Manager will provide direct oversight of PBRF decommissioning for NASA Glenn Research Center management and will serve as NASA's management representative on site. The Construction Manager will have direct authority over all activities that take place at the PBRF and will interface directly with the Decommissioning Contractor's Project Manager and Site Supervisor. The Construction Manager will serve as the single point of contact between NASA and all site personnel. The Construction Manager will assist the work crews in coordinating activities to prevent conflicts, and will help resolve any site issues. The Construction Manager will also have the ability to call upon the engineering resources within the NASA organization to assist in any technical issues. The Construction Manager's responsibilities will include:

- Maintaining direct control of PBRF decommissioning for NASA
- Reviewing work procedures
- Assisting the Decommissioning Contractor in technical and safety issues
- Reviewing the methodology/tooling for decontamination and decommissioning activities
- Overseeing decontamination and decommissioning activities
- Assisting the NASA Decommissioning Project Manager in all construction issues
- Coordinating Decommissioning Contractor activities on site
- Reporting to the NASA Decommissioning Project Manager on work progress and site issues
- Resolving site issues
- Drawing upon NASA engineering resources as needed
- Assisting the NASA Decommissioning Project Manager in ensuring that the QA program is effectively implemented.

The NASA Construction Manager will have the authority to enforce safe performance of PBRF decommissioning activities and to shut down operations or activities because of either safety or environmental issues, if immediate corrective action is not taken, until a technical review has been conducted. Resumption of work will require NASA Decommissioning Project Manager or NASA Construction Manager approval following completion of reviews and implementation of any required corrective actions.

Minimum qualifications for the NASA Construction Manager are five years of field experience and three years of supervisory experience in either construction or decontamination and decommissioning.

### **Engineering Support Team (NASA)**

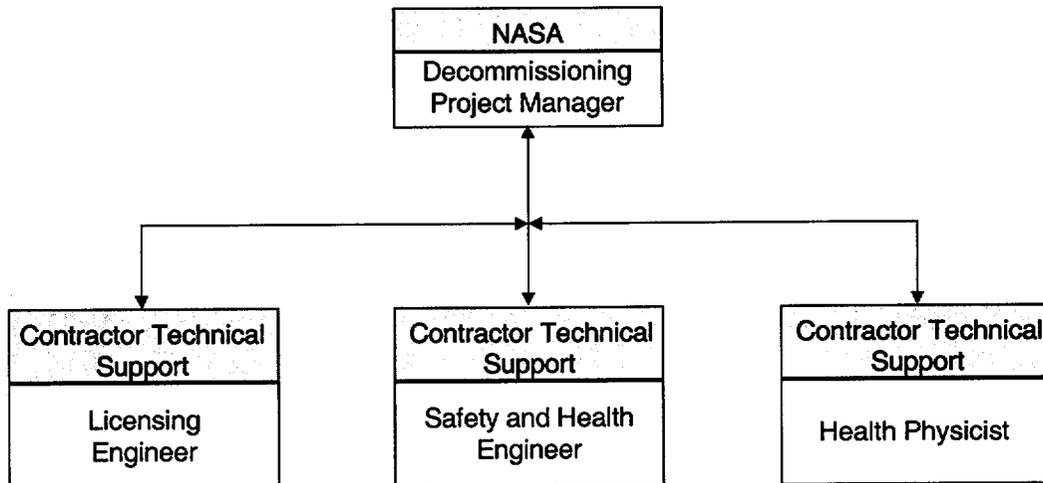
NASA will provide a matrix organization of engineers in various disciplines (civil, mechanical, electrical, environmental, and safety) to support the decontamination and decommissioning of the PBRF on an as-needed basis. The NASA Construction Manager will request the services of these individuals as necessary to support the decontamination and decommissioning operations. The Engineering Support Team will review specific work plans and provide oversight of the actual work at critical points in the decontamination and decommissioning activities as determined by NASA management. The Engineering Support Team shall report any unsafe practices they observe on site to the NASA Project Manager, the NASA Construction Manager, or the Plum Brook Safety Officer who will have the authority to stop work. Work will resume after the review and approval of corrective action by either the NASA Construction Manager or the NASA Decommissioning Project Manager.

### **Administrative Support Team (NASA)**

NASA will provide an Administrative Support Team to support the decommissioning of the PBRF. Members of the Administrative Support Team will provide support in the areas of legal, financial management, procurement, and media relations (Figure 2-5). These individuals will support the decommissioning operations as necessary to keep NASA management informed of the progress of PBRF decommissioning project in terms of NASA administrative requirements, interactions with the public, and internal reviews and audits required for a project of this magnitude and visibility.

#### ***2.4.1.2 Key Positions in Decommissioning Technical Support Team (Contractor)***

A Decommissioning Technical Support Team will provide technical support to NASA (Figure 2-5 ) by independently evaluating the Decommissioning Contractor. Day to day oversight will be provided by the Licensing Engineer, Safety and Health Engineer, and Health Physicist (Figure 2-6). The Decommissioning Technical Support Team will have a direct relationship with the corresponding manager in the Decommissioning Contractor organization(s). The Decommissioning Technical Support Team will be delegated the authority to stop work on any job if any unsafe condition, practice, or situation is observed on site. The responsibilities of the key positions of the Decommissioning Technical Support Team are described below.



**Figure 2-6. Contractor Technical Support**

### **Licensing Engineer**

The Licensing Engineer will assist the NASA Decommissioning Project Manager and Construction Manager in the planning and directing of decontamination and decommissioning activities. The Licensing Engineer will interface directly with the Decommissioning Contractor on all technical issues and with the NRC on all licensing issues through the NASA Decommissioning Project Manager. The Licensing Engineer will review work procedures, cost plans and project documents, as well as project records. The responsibilities of the Licensing Engineer will include:

- Supervising and reporting on work progress
- Reviewing methodology/tooling for decontamination and decommissioning activities
- Monitoring budget and work schedule
- Monitoring of daily work activities
- Preparing any licensing amendments or changes to Technical Specifications
- Preparing state or local license applications or permits, as well as any amendments or changes
- Interfacing with NASA on any NRC or state licensing issues
- Ensuring that the Decommissioning Contractor's QA program related to licensing is effectively implemented.

Minimum qualifications for the Licensing Engineer are a bachelor's degree in science or engineering, five years of nuclear or decontamination and decommissioning experience, and two years of NRC licensing experience.

## **Safety and Health Engineer**

The Safety and Health Engineer will be responsible for ensuring that the Decommissioning Contractor performs all activities in compliance with NASA, local, and federal regulations, and will assist the NASA Decommissioning Project Manager in all issues regarding Safety and Health. The Safety and Health Engineer will interface directly with the Decommissioning Contractor's Safety and Health Supervisor, but will have authority to monitor all contractor activities. The Safety and Health Engineer's responsibilities will include:

- Performing daily site walkdowns
- Identifying safety deficiencies that could result in bodily injury or damage to property
- Reviewing contractor work procedures and safety plans
- Monitoring tool and equipment inspections
- Reviewing new methodologies/tools to be used during decontamination and decommissioning
- Investigating incidents and accidents
- Ensuring that the Decommissioning Contractor's QA program related to Safety and Health is effectively implemented.

Minimum qualifications for the Safety and Health Engineer are either seven years experience in industrial/construction safety or a Certified Industrial Hygienist.

## **Health Physicist**

The Health Physicist will be responsible for monitoring the health physics program established by the Decommissioning Contractor for the PBRF, including the ALARA program. The Health Physicist will serve as the principal interface between the NASA Decommissioning Project Manager and the Decommissioning Contractor's Health Physics Supervisor. The responsibilities of the Health Physicist will include:

- Assisting the Radiation Safety Officer in implementing the NASA Radiation Protection Program
- Reviewing radiological/ALARA engineering and analysis for special jobs
- Monitoring health physics coverage of decontamination and decommissioning activities
- Reviewing survey reports
- Monitoring collective dose for the decontamination and decommissioning of the PBRF
- Reviewing dose information to identify potential problems and approving corrective actions
- Investigating radiological incidents

- Reviewing health physics procedures/guidelines for the PBRF decommissioning project
- Reviewing sampling/survey plans
- Reviewing survey reports
- Assisting the Decommissioning Contractor Health Physics Supervisor in the implementation of radiation protection policies and procedures
- Ensuring that the Decommissioning Contractor's QA program related to Health Physics is effectively implemented.

Minimum qualifications for the Health Physicist are either ten years of health physics experience in either nuclear power or decontamination and decommissioning experience or a Certified Health Physicist and five years of nuclear power or decontamination and decommissioning experience.

#### **2.4.2 Decommissioning Safety Committee (NASA)**

The Decommissioning Safety Committee will be established to review and approve the Decommissioning Contractor's Safety and Health Program that will be in place during the decommissioning of the PBRF. The Committee will have authority to review any and all programs, plans, and procedures that may have an impact on the safety and health of workers and the public to ensure compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations. The Committee will also be available to provide advice, technical expertise, and guidance to minimize health hazards associated with decommissioning activities. Authority to fulfill this responsibility and perform these functions will be granted by the Chairman of the Glenn Executive Safety Board (Figure 2-5).

The Committee will review and approve proposed procedures, schedules, specifications, QA plans, dismantling plans, and significant revisions to approved documents, as well as submittals to the NRC regarding decommissioning activities. A prime consideration in the Committee's activities will be to ensure that all public and employee radiation exposures are ALARA. Any ALARA or personnel exposure issues that require Radiation Safety Committee attention will be forwarded to that committee for action. The Decommissioning Safety Committee will be responsible for investigating any incidents, malfunctions, or operator errors and approving any resulting corrective actions. The Chairman or designee can recommend to the NASA Decommissioning Project Manager that any operation or activity be shut down for radiological safety or environmental health issues until an appropriate technical review has been conducted. All committee members directly observing unsafe radiological or environmental health practices will have the authority to stop work.

Members of the Decommissioning Safety Committee will include:

- Chairman of the Plum Brook Reactor Safety Committee/Decommissioning Safety Committee (NASA)
- Radiation Safety Officer (Deputy Chairman) (NASA)

- Construction Manager (Alternate Chairman) (NASA)
- Plum Brook Safety Officer (NASA)
- Plum Brook Reactor Manager (NASA)
- NASA Engineer (Nuclear, Environmental, Safety)
- NASA Engineer (Civil, Structural, Mechanical, Electrical).

Also, the following members of the Decommissioning Technical Support Team will support the Decommissioning Safety Committee:

- Health Physicist (Contractor)
- Safety and Health Engineer (Contractor)
- Licensing Engineer (Contractor).

A quorum to conduct business will require the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, or Alternate Chairman plus three other members. The committee will meet at least once monthly or as often as necessary. The committee may be called upon at any time to discuss significant safety issues that may include:

- Reportable worker injury
- Serious equipment damage
- Near misses
- Spills
- Critical lifts
- Contamination/exposure incident
- High dose activities
- Decontamination and decommissioning activities that may involve the risk of serious personnel injury, equipment damage, or environmental release of contaminants.

## **2.5 Training Program**

This section describes the training program that will be used during decommissioning of the PBRF. All field personnel (NASA and contractors) assigned to work at the PBRF will meet NASA training and certification requirements and applicable regulatory requirements. NASA employees and contractors will receive training on the decommissioning plan. More specific training for workers will be commensurate with their duties and responsibilities and the magnitude of the potential exposure to direct radiation and contamination. The objectives of training are five-fold: (1) provide workers with information about radiologically and chemically hazardous substances, sources and types, exposure routes, and effects, (2) provide information on the radiation protection program for the decommissioning activities to enable each worker to comply with safety and health rules and to properly respond to all conditions, (3) provide instruction in the

fundamentals of radiation and chemical protection to enable workers to meet ALARA objectives, (4) provide information and training on personal protection equipment, monitoring instruments, and equipment available and how to use them, and (5) instruct workers about applicable Federal, State, and PBRF radiation protection rules concerning safety and health.

The NASA Decommissioning Project Manager will prepare a policy on the personnel training program and will maintain training records. The Radiation Safety Officer will participate in developing and approving training programs related to work involving radiation exposure. The PBRF Decommissioning Safety Committee will approve the safety training standards for PBRF workers.

All personnel assigned to work at PBRF will be given instruction in the fundamentals of radiation protection annually. The degree of instruction will be determined by work assignment and will ensure that workers understand how radiation protection relates to their jobs. The minimum training provided to any worker will include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following subjects:

- Principles of radiation protection
- Radiation monitoring techniques
- Radiation monitoring instrumentation
- Emergency procedures
- Radiation hazards and controls
- Concepts of radiation and contamination
- Provisions of 10 CFR Parts 19 and 20
- NRC license conditions and limitations
- Responsibilities of workers and supervisors
- Reporting requirements for workers
- Exposure control procedures
- Biological effects of radiation
- Radiation control zones procedures
- Safe Work Permits
- Environmental requirements and procedures including air, water, and soil
- Environmental management procedures
- Solid and hazardous waste management
- Confined space entry awareness
- Lead awareness
- Asbestos awareness
- Hazardous materials awareness.

Personnel will also be instructed in NASA's management commitment to implement ALARA, what ALARA means, why it is important, and how they implement it on their jobs.

Copies of applicable Federal regulations and PBRF radiation protection rules will be given to each worker. Workers will be tested upon the conclusion of training and retested on their understanding of the training each year.

Records of individual training and qualifications will be maintained and will include the trainee's name, training date, subjects covered during training, equipment for which training was received, written test results, and the instructor's name.

The Executive Safety Board (Figure 2-5) will be responsible for ensuring that the Decommissioning Safety Committee or Audit Team conduct reviews or audits so that certification requirements and minimum standards are met and for personnel training and certification documentation are proper and consistent with applicable requirements.

Contractors will be properly trained and properly licensed in their areas of expertise. In addition, they will receive the general training identified earlier in this section. For example, contractors performing asbestos abatement and disposal services will be trained in accordance with 29 CFR 1926.1101, 29 CFR 1910.1001, 40 CFR 61.140 – 61.157, and Chapter 3701-34 of the Ohio Administrative Code, as applicable. Contractors performing lead paint abatement services will be trained in accordance with 29 CFR 1926.62(e).

## **2.6 Contractor Assistance**

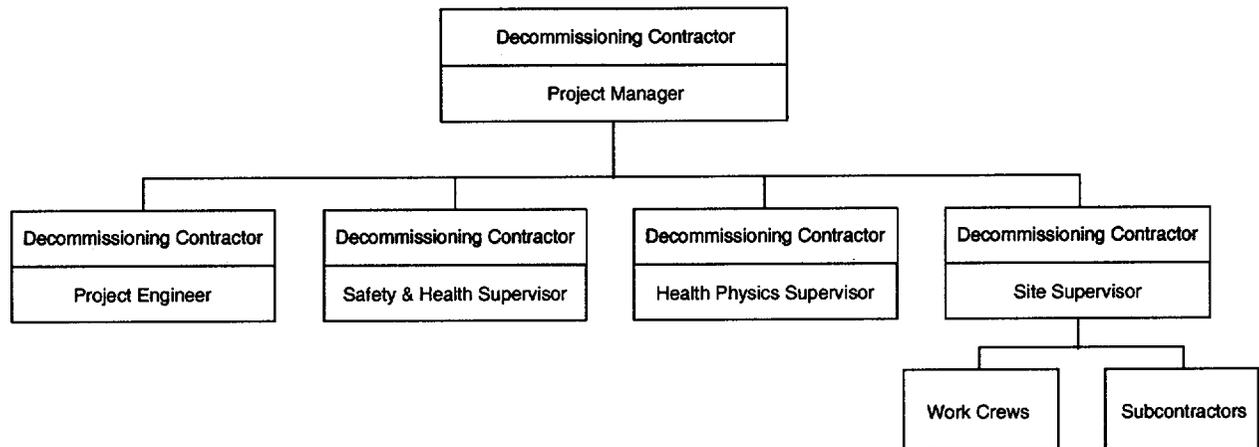
This section discusses the functions that contractors will perform as part of the decommissioning effort. There will be two categories of contractors. The first will assist NASA in providing safety oversight and quality assurance of the decommissioning. These contractors are the Decommissioning Technical Support Team described in Section 2.4.1.2 and will be selected for their technical, decommissioning, and oversight experience. The second type of contractor will perform and support the actual decommissioning activities. This contractor will be the Decommissioning Contractor. NASA will select all contractors through established procurement procedures and standards requiring a rigorous source evaluation and review process. The review and evaluation specifications will define scope and method of selection and criteria for contractor qualifications, experience, and reputation. The actual selection of all contractors has not yet occurred. Schedules and specific tasks to be performed by contractors will be planned in advance and detailed work procedures will be developed. Prerequisites, such as safety, health, and environmental precautions and protective clothing requirements, will be defined in writing before work is started. All contractors will adhere to NASA procedures delineating the policies and administrative guidelines applicable to the PBRF decommissioning project, and work will be performed in accordance with NASA safety and environmental requirements.

NASA currently envisions that the Decommissioning Contractor will provide all decontamination and dismantling services and related support activities during the decommissioning of the PBRF. The Decommissioning Contractor will perform the decommissioning operations and supervise and schedule day-to-day decommissioning activities. NASA will ensure that all contractor activities are safely performed and comply with 10 CFR Part 20 and other applicable regulations, license conditions, the decommissioning order issued by NRC, and the decommissioning plan.

The Decommissioning Contractor will be responsible for ensuring that decommissioning contractor staff are trained in performing work in radiation areas; setting up work areas and the equipment and services necessary for safely accomplishing the work; scoping and preparing detailed procedures; providing sequencing and scheduling; and processing, packaging, shipping,

and disposing of radioactive materials. The Decommissioning Contractor will have complete responsibility for ensuring the safety and health of their employees and for complying with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and NRC requirements. All these efforts will be subject to the review, approval, and authority of the NASA Decommissioning Project Manager and the Radiation Safety Officer to ensure compliance with NRC requirements, license conditions, and NASA safety and health requirements.

As shown in the organization chart in Figure 2-5, the NASA Construction Manager and Decommissioning Technical Support Team (Contractor) will assist NASA in the oversight of the Decommissioning Contractor's activities. The Decommissioning Contractor may include, but not necessarily be limited to, project administration personnel; project engineers; scheduling and field supervisors; and support personnel, including property custodians, maintenance electricians, mechanics, and janitors. NASA expects to use specialty contractors to perform the removal and disposal of asbestos and lead paint. NASA envisions the key positions in the Decommissioning Contractor's organization shown in the organization chart in Figure 2-7, having the responsibilities described in Sections 2.6.1 through 2.6.5.



**Figure 2-7. Decommissioning Contractor Organization**

**2.6.1 Decommissioning Contractor Project Manager**

The Decommissioning Contractor Project Manager will plan and direct the decommissioning of the PBRF. The Decommissioning Contractor Project Manager will review work procedures and cost plans, and maintain all relevant decommissioning project records. The Decommissioning Contractor Project Manager will manage and report on progress of decommissioning activities. The Decommissioning Contractor Project Manager will interface directly with the NASA Decommissioning Project Manager and NASA Construction Manager and act as the single point of contact between NASA management and the decommissioning contractors.

The Decommissioning Contractor Project Manager's responsibilities will include:

- Planning, directing, and monitoring decommissioning activities

- Resolving work problems
- Reporting directly to the NASA Decommissioning Project Manager
- Coordinating design development for decontamination and dismantlement activities
- Reviewing decontamination and dismantlement work procedures, work requests, cost plans, QA plans, and other relevant documentation
- Reviewing budgets and schedules
- Investigating potential improvements in decontamination and dismantlement methods and tooling and recommending cost-effective modifications to procedures
- Preparing progress reports and making presentations as requested by NASA management
- Approving procurement and request for services
- Evaluating bids and cost proposals.

Minimum qualifications for the Decommissioning Contractor Project Manager are ten years of either nuclear power or decontamination and decommissioning experience, with at least five years of project management experience.

### **2.6.2 Decommissioning Contractor Project Engineer**

The Decommissioning Contractor Project Engineer will assist the Decommissioning Contractor Project Manager in planning and directing decontamination and decommissioning activities. The Project Engineer will prepare work procedures, cost plans, and project documents, as well as maintain the project records. The responsibilities of the Decommissioning Contractor Project Engineer will include:

- Supervising and reporting on work progress
- Developing methodology/tooling for decontamination and dismantlement activities
- Preparing budgets and work schedules
- Planning and monitoring daily work activities
- Initiating procurement and request for services.

Minimum qualifications for the Decommissioning Contractor Project Engineer are a bachelor's degree in science or engineering and five years of decontamination and decommissioning experience.

### **2.6.3 Decommissioning Contractor Safety and Health Supervisor**

The Decommissioning Contractor Safety and Health Supervisor will be responsible for ensuring that decontamination and decommissioning activities are executed in compliance with site, local, and federal regulations. The Decommissioning Contractor Safety and Health Supervisor's responsibilities will include:

- Providing safety and health training
- Performing daily site walkdowns
- Identifying safety deficiencies that could result in bodily injury or damage to property
- Conducting baseline surveys on all construction type work
- Preparing the contractor safety, health, and environmental plans
- Reviewing subcontractor safety, health, and environmental plans
- Attending pre-job briefings to maintain cognizance of planned activities and participating in the review of safety requirements
- Performing tool and equipment inspections
- Reviewing new methodologies/tools to be used during decontamination and dismantlement activities
- Ensuring environmental compliance
- Investigating accidents and incidents

Minimum qualifications for the Decommissioning Contractor Safety and Health Supervisor are either five years of experience in industrial/construction safety or a Certified Industrial Hygienist.

#### **2.6.4 Decommissioning Contractor Health Physics Supervisor**

The Decommissioning Contractor Health Physics Supervisor will be responsible for providing basic health physics support for decommissioning the PBRF. The Health Physics Supervisor will serve as the principal interface between the Decommissioning Contractor Project Manager and the health physics staff. The responsibilities of the Decommissioning Contractor Health Physics Supervisor will include:

- Providing radiological/ALARA engineering and analysis for special jobs
- Coordinating health physics oversight of decommissioning activities
- Preparing survey reports
- Maintaining database of collective dose for the decommissioning of the PBRF
- Performing dose estimates in support of ALARA actions
- Performing trend analysis of dose information to identify potential problems and designing corrective actions
- Investigating radiological incidents
- Preparing health physics procedures/guidelines for the PBRF decommissioning project
- Participating in radiation protection training specific to decontamination and decommissioning activities

- Preparing sampling/survey plans
- Maintaining database of the radiological conditions of all areas of the PBRF
- Reviewing and interpreting radiation protection policies and procedures.

Minimum qualifications for the Decommissioning Contractor Health Physics Supervisor are ten years of health physics experience in either nuclear power or decontamination and decommissioning or a Certified Health Physicist with five years of nuclear power or decontamination and decommissioning experience.

### **2.6.5 Decommissioning Contractor Site Supervisor**

The Decommissioning Contractor Site Supervisor will be responsible for implementing the work plans associated with the PBRF decommissioning project, and will serve as the point of contact between the Decommissioning Contractor Project Manager and the hands-on workers. The work crews performing the actual decontamination and dismantlement activities, including the various subcontractors that may be employed to perform specialized tasks (i.e., asbestos removal, lead paint abatement, equipment repair, rigging services, etc.), will answer to the Site Supervisor (Figure 2-7).

The Decommissioning Contractor Site Supervisor will be responsible for ensuring:

- All tasks are completed in a safe and timely manner
- Timely collection of facility, environmental, safety, and health data
- Radiological protection of workers and the environment
- All workers that may be exposed to radioactive materials are properly trained in ALARA procedures
- All workers have received the training required to perform their work in a safe manner
- Site security
- All work is performed in accordance with the appropriate plans and procedures
- Coordination of work between the different work crews and subcontractors in all areas of the PBRF.

The minimum qualifications for the Decommissioning Contractor Site Supervisor are 10 years of supervisory experience in either construction or decontamination and decommissioning.

## **2.7 Decontamination and Decommissioning Documents and Guides**

The Decommissioning Plan for the PBRF has been written using the guidance and format specified in Chapter 17 of "Guidelines for Preparing and Reviewing Applications for the Licensing of Non-Power Reactors" (NUREG-1537) (NRC 1996). The radiological criteria for license termination to allow unrestricted use will be as set forth in 10 CFR Part 20, Subpart E, "Radiological Criteria for License Termination," and will follow the NRC guidance in Draft

Regulatory Guide DG-4006, "Demonstrating Compliance with the Radiological Criteria for License Termination" (NRC 1998a). NASA will use these main documents for its decommissioning effort. NASA will also use the other regulations, regulatory guides, and standards listed below.

Code of Federal Regulations:

10 CFR Part 19	"Notices, Instructions and Reports to Workers; Inspections"
10 CFR Part 20	"Standards for Protection Against Radiation"
10 CFR Part 30	"Rules of General Applicability to Domestic Licensing of Byproduct Material"
10 CFR Part 50	"Domestic Licensing of Production and Utilization Facilities"
10 CFR Part 51	"Licensing and Regulatory Policy and Procedures for Environmental Protection"
10 CFR Part 61	"Licensing Requirements for Land Disposal of Radioactive Waste"
10 CFR Part 71	"Packaging of Radioactive Material for Transport and Transportation of Radioactive Material under Certain Conditions"
10 CFR Part 140	"Financial Protection Requirements and Indemnity Agreements"
29 CFR Part 1910	"Occupational Safety and Health Standards"
29 CFR Part 1926	"Occupational Safety and Health Standards for Construction"
49 CFR Parts 170-199	"Department of Transportation Hazardous Materials Regulations"

NRC Regulatory Guides:

DG-4006	"Demonstrating Compliance with the Radiological Criteria for License Termination"
1.86	"Termination of Operating Licenses for Nuclear Reactors"
8.2	"Guide for Administrative Practices in Radiation Monitoring"
8.4	"Direct-Reading and Indirect-Reading Pocket Dosimeters"
8.7	"Occupational Radiation Exposure Records Systems"
8.9	"Acceptable Concepts, Models, Equations and Assumptions for a Bioassay Program"

- 8.10 “Operating Philosophy for Maintaining Occupational Radiation Exposure As Low As Is Reasonably Achievable”
- 8.13 “Instruction Concerning Prenatal Radiation Exposure”
- 8.15 “Acceptable Programs for Respiratory Protection”

ANSI Standards:

- ANSI N323-1978 “Radiation Protection Instrumentation Test and Calibration”
- ANSI/ANS 15.1-1990 “The Development of Technical Specifications for Research Reactors”
- ANSI N42.17A-1989 Performance Specifications for Health Physics Instrumentation – Portable Instrumentation for use in Normal Environmental Conditions
- ANSI N42.17B-1989 Performance Specifications for Health Physics Instrumentation – Occupational Airborne Radioactivity Monitoring Instrumentation
- ANSI N42.17C-1989 Performance Specifications for Health Physics Instrumentation – Portable Instrumentation for use in Extreme Environmental Conditions
- ANSI N42.12-1980 Calibration and Usage of Sodium Iodide Detector Systems
- ANSI N42.14-78 Calibration and Usage of Germanium Detectors for Measurement of Gamma-Ray Emission of Radionuclides
- ANSI/IEEE STD 325-1986 IEEE Standard Test Procedures for Germanium Gamma-Ray Detectors

Regulatory Guidance and Documents:

- NUREG-1505 “A Nonparametric Statistical Methodology for the Design and Analysis of Final Status Decommissioning Surveys”
- NUREG-1507 “Minimum Detectable Concentrations with Typical Radiation Survey Instruments for Various Contaminants and Field Conditions”
- NUREG-1537 “Guidelines for Preparing and Reviewing Applications for the Licensing of Non-Power Reactors”
- NUREG-1549 “Using Decision Methods for Dose Assessment to Comply with Radiological Criteria for License Termination, Draft”

NUREG-1575	“Multi-Agency Radiation Survey and Site Investigation Manual (MARSSIM)”
NUREG/CR-1756	“Technology, Safety and Costs of Decommissioning Reference Nuclear Research and Test Reactors and Addenda”
NUREG/CR-6410	“Nuclear Fuel Cycle Facility Accident Analysis Handbook”

### **3. PROTECTION OF THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF RADIATION WORKERS AND THE PUBLIC**

#### **3.1 Radiation Protection**

This section describes NASA's ALARA program and health physics program that will be in effect during decontamination and decommissioning of the PBRF. Related sections of the decommissioning plan include Section 2.4, which describes organization and responsibilities, including those related to radiation protection; Section 2.5, which describes training, including that related to radiation protection; and Section 3.1.3, which provides estimates of doses resulting from decontamination and decommissioning activities.

A radiation protection program will be provided under the cognizance of the NASA Radiation Safety Officer and the Decommissioning Safety Committee (shown in Figure 2-5). This program will be implemented by trained and experienced supervisory, technical, and service contractor personnel. Radiation safety personnel will be present at the site when decommissioning activities are in progress to provide complete support and health physics supervision. These services include, but are not limited to, implementing ALARA principles, radiation worker training, establishing occupational and public dose limits, monitoring personnel for occupational exposures, controlling exposure, waste disposal, providing radiation monitoring equipment, performing station area and environmental surveys, and maintaining records and generating of reports as necessary to comply with NRC and license requirements.

##### **3.1.1 Ensuring ALARA Radiation Exposures**

NASA management is committed to the policy of ALARA. Every reasonable effort will be made to maintain exposure to radiation as far below the limits specified in 10 CFR Part 20 as is reasonably achievable. This goal includes not only minimizing the dose to the worker but also the collective dose to the entire decommissioning staff. This goal will be accomplished by establishing a radiation protection program that applies sound health physics principles and uses supporting equipment, facilities, and instrumentation where applicable. NASA management will assign an audit team to ensure that departures from this policy are not made and that good radiation control practices are implemented. The audit team will periodically perform formal audits to determine how exposures might be reduced, and based on the audit results, recommend steps to reduce exposures.

In developing the decommissioning plans for the PBRF, the potential effects that specific actions would have on the environment and the general public were examined in planning the effort. This examination will continue throughout the decommissioning operations to ensure that discharges to the environment are ALARA. The radiation protection goal is to minimize occupational doses and doses to the public whenever reasonably achievable. All worker activities in radiation zones will be planned ahead of time to minimize exposures. If a task does result in significant radiation exposures, a post-operation review of the task will be made with the workers to identify how procedures can be changed to reduce subsequent exposures when performing similar tasks. Training will reinforce the principles of radiation protection of the worker. The primary elements of the ALARA program are (1) control work activities through the use of a Safe

Work Permit, (2) conduct pre- and post-job reviews, (3) establish the decommissioning Radiation Safety Committee for oversight, and (4) track occupational exposures for future reference.

All personnel assigned to work at PBRF will be given instruction in the fundamentals of radiation protection annually. The minimum training provided to any worker is discussed in Section 2.5. As noted, personnel will be instructed in NASA's management commitment to implement ALARA.

### **3.1.2 Health Physics Program**

The health physics program will be implemented under the authority of the NASA Radiation Safety Officer. The NASA Radiation Safety Officer will inspect and evaluate the effectiveness of procedures, rules and regulations, license conditions, standards, and good health safety practices. The health physics program will satisfy the following radiation protection program commitments: (1) ensure radiological safety of the public, occupationally exposed personnel, and the environment, (2) monitor radiation level and radioactive materials, (3) control distribution and releases of radioactive materials, and (4) maintain potential exposures to the public and occupational radiation exposure to individuals within the limits of 10 CFR Part 20 and at levels ALARA.

#### **3.1.2.1 Dose Limits**

Annual dose limits for occupational exposure and members of the public will be established based on the requirements contained in 10 CFR Part 20. Site administrative limits of 100 mrem per day, 250 mrem per week, and 1000 mrem per year to workers will be used to ensure compliance with the annual dose limits and for maintaining exposures ALARA. If doses are above these limits, the Radiation Safety Committee will be notified and corrective action will be taken.

### **Occupational Exposures**

The PBRF annual occupational dose equivalent limits will be consistent with 10 CFR 20.1201(a):

- (1) An annual limit, which is the more limiting of:
  - (i) The total effective dose equivalent being equal to 5 rems (0.05 Sv); or
  - (ii) The sum of the deep-dose equivalent and the committed dose equivalent to any individual organ or tissue other than the lens of the eye being equal to 50 rems (0.5 Sv).
- (2) The annual limits to the lens of the eye, to the skin, and to the extremities, which are:
  - (i) A lens dose equivalent of 15 rems (0.15 Sv), and
  - (ii) A shallow-dose equivalent of 50 rems (0.50 Sv) to the skin or to any extremity.

The annual occupational dose limits for minors will be 10 percent of the dose limits specified above in 10 CFR 20.1201(a). Additionally, the dose limit for the embryo/fetus during the entire gestation period because of occupational exposure of a declared pregnant woman will be 0.5 rem.

## **Public Exposures**

The annual limit for members of the public is 0.1 rem TEDE, exclusive of the dose contributions from background radiation, medical administrations, and disposal of radioactive material in sewerage (10 CFR 20.2003) in accordance with 10 CFR 20.1301. Air emissions of radioactive material to the environment, excluding Rn-222 and its daughters, will be managed so the member of the public likely to receive the highest dose will not exceed 0.01 rem/yr in accordance with 10 CFR 20.1101.

### **3.1.2.2 Personnel Monitoring**

All onsite personnel will be required to participate in the monitoring program for the decommissioning project. Personnel monitoring of occupational radiation exposure will be performed for all individuals who might receive a dose in excess of 10 percent of the annual limits contained in 10 CFR 20.1201(a) (see Section 3.1.2.1). Personnel may be monitored at a greater frequency depending on the requirements contained in the applicable Safe Work Permit or as required by the Radiation Safety Officer.

## **External Monitoring**

External dose will be monitored using thermoluminescent dosimeters (TLD), electronic dosimeters, self-reading pocket dosimeters, or portable survey instruments. The TLD processing program will be accredited by the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program for the energies and types of radiation expected to be encountered at the site. Personnel exiting the PBRF areas having a potential for removable surface contamination will be subject to personnel surveys designed to detect contamination by use of a count rate instrument with a thin window Geiger-Mueller (G-M) detector (pancake G-M, or equivalent). If personnel contamination is identified, decontamination will be conducted and the potential skin dose equivalent will be assessed.

## **Internal Monitoring**

Internal dose may be monitored with air samples, *in vitro* or *in vivo* bioassay techniques, or a combination of air monitoring and bioassay in accordance with 10 CFR 20.1204. If the primary method of compliance is by air monitoring, personnel with the greatest potential for intakes of radioactive material will be sampled at a frequency determined by the Radiation Safety Officer and based on the pulmonary retention class (days, weeks, years) of the radionuclides of concern to evaluate the effectiveness of the air monitoring program. If respiratory protection equipment is used for protection against airborne radioactive material, air monitoring and bioassays will be performed to evaluate actual intakes in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 20.1703 (a)(3)(ii).

### **3.1.2.3 Exposure Control**

The primary methods to control occupational exposures at the PBRF will be by controlling facility access, communicating area hazards through proper training and postings; maintaining knowledge of the current radiological conditions by facility monitoring; using personnel protection equipment (e.g., protective clothing and respirators); and using Safe Work Permits.

#### **Facility Access Control**

Entry to the fenced area surrounding the PBRF will be controlled by security personnel during operating hours. During non-operating hours, the gates in the fence will be locked and routine security surveillance of the PBRF will be performed. Facility access control is described in more detail in Section 6 of this plan.

#### **Area Posting**

Areas within the PBRF designated as restricted areas, radiation areas, high radiation areas, very high radiation areas, airborne radioactivity areas, and radioactive material areas will be posted and controlled in accordance with the provisions contained in 10 CFR Part 20, Subpart J, "Precautionary Procedures." Areas meeting the exceptions stated in 10 CFR Part 20 are not required to be posted.

#### **Facility Monitoring**

Facility monitoring is the routine, periodic determination of the direct radiation level and radioactivity within the PBRF. Facility monitoring will establish the radiological conditions, provide for a permanent record of these conditions, and permit evaluation of radiological trends during the decontamination and decommissioning efforts.

Representative samples of airborne radioactive material, water, and transferable surface radioactive contaminants will be routinely collected and analyzed to ensure that the radioactive materials at PBRF are being adequately contained. Direct radiation monitoring will also be performed.

Portable direct-reading radiation survey instruments and air sampling equipment will be available for facility monitoring. Types and frequency of surveys will be scheduled to comply with 10 CFR 20.1501.

#### **Respiratory Protection Program**

A respiratory protection program will be established to support decommissioning activities and will be designed to comply with the guidelines in NRC Regulatory Guide 8.15, *Acceptable Programs for Respiratory Protection* (NRC 1999). Wherever practicable, engineering controls will maintain airborne concentrations ALARA. Unwarranted use of respiratory protective equipment will not be permitted and is considered contrary to the ALARA principle because of the increased time required to perform individual tasks and the increase in physiological stress. Where

there is a potential for significant intakes of radioactive material and the TEDE may be maintained ALARA, respiratory protection equipment will be worn and allowance will be made for its use in estimating exposures.

The Decommissioning Contractor will select respiratory protection equipment that provides a protection factor greater than the multiple by which peak concentrations of airborne radioactive materials in the working area are expected to exceed the values specified in 10 CFR Part 20 Appendix B, Table 1, column 3. If selecting such a respiratory protection device is inconsistent with the goal of keeping the TEDE ALARA, the Decommissioning Contractor may select respiratory protection equipment with a lower protection factor. Before selecting respiratory protection equipment, the Radiation Safety Officer, or designee, will conduct a hazard assessment of operations that use radioactive materials to determine the need for radiological respiratory protection. When assessing area(s) and condition(s), the following (as a minimum) will be taken into consideration before selecting the appropriate equipment:

- Radioactive materials sampling results
- Removal efficiency of ventilation controls
- Removable contamination levels
- Radionuclides
- Resuspension factors
- Area dose rates
- General conditions, including equipment and materials used and worker activity
- 10 CFR Part 20-derived air concentrations
- Feasibility of engineering controls to reduce employee exposure below the exposure limit
- Degree of protection provided by the respirator.

### **Safe Work Permits**

The primary method of maintaining personnel exposures ALARA is through the use of Safe Work Permits. PBRF procedure AD-18 describes responsibility for issuing and proper use of Safe Work Permits. Safe Work Permits indicate the current radiological conditions of work areas and stipulate the controls, precautions, personnel protection equipment, and techniques necessary to perform work safely. Personnel authorized to approve Safe Work Permits are assigned a supervisory role. They are responsible for either the safety of their personnel working under the Safe Work Permit or for the safe conduct of work in areas under their supervision. All personnel working under Safe Work Permits are responsible for complying with the requirements of the permits. A PBRF Safe Work Permit will be required whenever there is exposure or potential exposure to significant levels of radiation, contamination, or airborne radioactive material.

## Personnel Decontamination

The recording of skin contamination levels and decontamination of personnel will be accomplished as expeditiously as possible. PBRF-specific limits are established to identify when skin dose from personnel skin contamination incidents may be significant and require a dose assessment evaluation. Mild hand soaps with water will be used as the initial step in the decontamination process. Further, more detailed procedures specific for the contaminants involved will be performed by health physics personnel and will follow accepted industrial methods. All injuries involving contamination or potential contamination, or injuries occurring in controlled zones, will be reported to the Radiation Safety Officer with referral to a physician if necessary. A personnel decontamination station will be available for immediate use. The decommissioning station will be located in a modular unit that will be part of a temporary radioactive waste treatment system. Contaminated washwater will be collected and processed, along with other contaminated water, by a skid-mounted unit prior to discharge.

### 3.1.2.4 Radiation Monitoring Equipment

Radiation monitoring equipment will be available to measure the types and energies of radiation present on the site. Instruments will be calibrated at a minimum frequency as established in Table 3-1. The equipment will be controlled and tested in accordance with ANSI N323 – 1978 (ANSI 1978).

**Table 3-1. Radiation Monitoring Equipment Calibration Frequency**

Instrument Type	Application	Calibration Frequency
Count rate meters	Personnel monitoring and surface contamination measurements	Annually or greater frequency as specified by the manufacturer
Exposure or dose equivalent rate meters	Determinate exposure or dose equivalent rates	Annually or greater frequency as specified by the manufacturer
Gross alpha or beta scaler	Quantify radioactive material on air samples or smears	Annually or greater frequency as specified by the manufacturer
Air samplers	Collect airborne radioactive material samples	6 months or greater frequency as specified by the manufacturer
Continuous air monitors	Monitor the concentration of radioactive material in the air	6 months or greater frequency as specified by the manufacturer
Effluent monitors	Monitor the quantity or concentration of radioactive material in site effluents	Annually or greater frequency as specified by the manufacturer
Microprocessor based contamination monitors	Quantify radioactive material on personnel, items, or equipment	Annually or greater frequency as specified by the manufacturer
Spectroscopy, liquid scintillation, gas flow proportional, and other lab equipment	Quantify radioactive material in samples	Annually or greater frequency as specified by the manufacturer

### **3.1.2.5 Station and Environmental Monitoring**

Station monitoring will consist of routinely determining the direct radiation levels and radioactive material within the Plum Brook Station, excluding the PBRF. Representative samples of airborne radioactive material, water, stream silt, direct radiation measurements, and precipitation will be routinely taken in each of four geographical sections within the Plum Brook Station perimeter at a distance of approximately 914 m (1000 yd) from the PBRF in north, east, south, and west coordinates. These results will be evaluated for general trends in activity levels as a function of time and provide a record of radiological conditions at these locations. The air samples will be collected continuously, and filters will normally be changed out weekly and analyzed for gross alpha and beta-gamma activity.

Water grab samples and stream silt from streams or large volumes, such as reservoirs, will normally be collected quarterly. Water samples will be collected from Plum Brook as it leaves Plum Brook Station, from Plum Brook upstream of the point where PBRF effluent enters the stream, and from Pipe Creek. A 2000-mL (68-fluid oz.) sample will be obtained and analyzed for gross alpha and beta-gamma activity.

Precipitation samples will be collected weekly at the air sample station locations and analyzed for gross alpha and beta-gamma activity. Composites of samples may be used to evaluate the average monthly results.

Direct radiation levels will be measured with TLDs continuously positioned at each of the four air sample locations. Dose rate in millirem will be computed from the time of installation to time of removal. The TLDs will be processed quarterly.

PBRF environmental monitoring will consist of routinely measuring the quantity of direct radiation and radioactive material in the environment outside Plum Brook Station. The monitoring results will establish the radiological conditions as a function of time, provide for a permanent record of these conditions, and permit evaluation of radiological trends over time. The environmental monitoring program will be instituted before beginning decommissioning activities.

Representative air; water; and surface soil, sediment, and vegetation samples will be routinely collected in each of four quadrants within a 14-km (9-mi.) radius of the PBRF and analyzed to demonstrate that the radioactive materials at PBRF are being adequately contained. The air and precipitation media will be taken continuously, with samples collected weekly. Water, soil, and vegetation samples will be grab samples and will be collected quarterly. All samples will be analyzed for gross alpha and beta-gamma activity. Direct radiation monitoring will also be performed.

The environmental monitoring results obtained during decommissioning operations will be compared with baseline survey data obtained before the onset of decommissioning activities. Unexplained anomalies will be investigated and resolved, and the resolution will be documented. Environmental monitoring will also provide data on the level of radioactivity from sources external to PBRF, such as natural radioactivity and fallout. After analysis results are obtained and reviewed, the results will be reported to NRC quarterly.

### **3.1.2.6 Records and Reports**

NASA will maintain records in the following categories:

- Personnel exposure records, including results of bioassays and incidents of skin contamination
- Incidents of overexposure or injuries involving radioactive materials
- Work area, facility, station, and environmental monitoring survey records indicating sampling information and analysis results
- Survey instrument calibration records and inventory
- Personnel training in radiation safety and control.

Routine reports of conditions relating to health and safety will be prepared for NASA management. In addition, such special reports as may be required in 10 CFR Part 19 and 10 CFR Part 20, Subpart M, "Reports," relative to exposures of personnel or the release of radioactive material will be submitted to the NRC. NASA will submit an annual status (progress) report to the NRC.

### **3.1.3 Dose Estimates**

This section presents estimated doses to radiation workers and discusses potential exposure pathways and doses to the public. Doses to workers performing decommissioning activities were estimated using the estimated labor hours for each work element identified in Section 2.3.1 and the average 1985 exposure rates documented by Teledyne Isotopes (1987). The 1985 exposure rates were corrected for decay to the year 2003, the year during which decontamination and waste removal are planned to occur.

A source term reduction strategy will be used during decontamination and removal activities. The sources of the highest radiation levels in each area will be removed first, and remaining activities will be performed in areas with much lower radiation levels. The material with the highest radiation levels (i.e., the reactor tank and internals and the activated material in the Hot Dry Storage Area) will be removed first. When removing contaminated piping and equipment, the components (e.g., valves) having the highest radiation levels will be removed first, so the remaining work can be performed at substantially lower radiation levels. The strategy of removing the highest radiation source first is generally consistent with the ALARA principle. If this strategy does not achieve ALARA principles because of space limitations, system/equipment configuration, or contamination control, the procedure that results in the least exposure will be followed.

It was assumed that all radiation doses to workers will occur through direct external exposure to ionizing radiation. Doses received from inhalation of radioactively contaminated airborne material will be mitigated by

- Developing work procedures for decontamination and decommissioning activities, including activities that could potentially result in airborne contamination. The work procedures will incorporate ALARA concepts (see Section 3.1.1) and health physics

input (see Section 3.1.2). The work procedures may require that personnel receive specific training before performing the work and may require that access to the work area be controlled during cutting and burning operations.

- Performing continuous air monitoring or air sampling in all active work areas before, during, and after all decommissioning activities.
- Using appropriate personnel protective equipment, such as respirators and supplied air respirators.
- Implementing engineering controls, such as contamination control envelopes that ensure positive containment of contamination by physical barriers or a flow of air from non-contaminated areas to contaminated areas and then discharged through filters.

During all decommissioning activities, worker doses will be controlled below the 10 CFR Part 20 maximum allowable annual worker dose of 5 rem/yr.

The estimated cumulative worker doses for each work element of the PBRF decommissioning project are presented in Table 3-2. These worker doses were estimated using the assumed labor hours for each task and the exposure rates measured during characterization surveys. Estimated worker doses considered only external exposure and did not include inhalation or dermal absorption pathways. WENs 2.2.2.11, Reactor Internals and Tank Removal, and 2.2.2.12, Contaminated Piping and Equipment Removal, will result in the highest worker doses. Work elements for which the estimate worker dose is zero would not involve radiation. The total dose estimated to be received by workers from decommissioning the PBRF is approximately 70 person-rem.

To estimate doses from transporting radioactive wastes, transportation doses presented for the reference light power water reactor in the "Generic Environmental Impact Statement in Support of Rulemaking on Radiological Criteria for License Termination of NRC-Licensed Nuclear Facilities" (NUREG-1496) (NRC 1997) were scaled using PBRF radiation levels, exposures, and waste volumes. The scaled estimates of doses to transportation workers and the public along transportation routes from transporting radioactive waste from PBRF decommissioning are estimated to be 5 and 0.5 person-rem, respectively.

As discussed above, controls will be used to ensure that doses to the public do not exceed the TEDE constraint of 0.01 rem, or 10 mrem/yr from emissions of airborne radioactive material [10 CFR 20.1101(b)]. The release of any airborne radioactive material would be minimized as described above, and any released particles would undergo dispersion as they travel 0.8 km (0.5 mi.) to the site boundary. As shown by the accident analysis in Section 3.3.2, accidents with unfiltered releases would result in a maximum estimated TEDE of 0.53 mrem to the average member of the public. The dose is well below the U.S. EPA Protective Action Guideline (PAG) of 1 rem (1000 mrem).

### **3.2 Radioactive Waste Management**

This section summarizes the types and volumes of radioactive waste and the processes that will be used for characterizing, packaging, transporting, processing, and disposing of radioactive waste.

**Table 3-2. Estimated Worker Doses From Decommissioning  
the NASA Plum Brook Reactor Facility**

Work Element No.	Work Element Description	Estimated Worker Dose (person-rem) <sup>a</sup>
1.0	Decommissioning Planning	NE <sup>b</sup>
2.1	NASA Operations and Direct Support	NE
2.2.1	Operations Management and Support	NE
2.2.2.2	Security	NE
2.2.2.3	Health Physics	1.8
2.2.2.4	Systems Operation, Maintenance, Deactivation	0.16
2.2.2.5	Contaminated Soil Removal	0.019
2.2.2.6	Site Preparation	0.75
2.2.2.7	Asbestos Removal and Lead Paint Abatement	0.11
2.2.2.8	Loose Equipment Removal	0.19
2.2.2.9	Removal of Activated Material in Hot Dry Storage Area	3.44
2.2.2.10	Decontamination	0.75
2.2.2.11	Reactor Internals and Tank Removal	23.9
2.2.2.12	Contaminated Piping and Equipment Removal	38.1
2.2.2.13	Contaminated Concrete and Embedded Pipe Removal	0.47
2.2.2.14	Final Status Survey	NE
2.2.2.15	Building Demolition	NE
2.2.2.16	Building Backfill	NE
2.2.2.17	Reactor Building Backfill	NE
<b>TOTAL</b>	—	69.5

- a. These values are doses above the doses due to background radiation. These values are the collective dose among all crew members during the multiyear decommissioning period.
- b. NE = The worker dose for these activities were not estimated. Expected doses are less than the levels requiring personnel monitoring.

Based on existing characterization information (described in Section 2.2) and planned decommissioning activities (described in Section 2.3.1), the estimated waste types, volumes, disposition, packaging, transportation method, and disposal strategy are presented in Table 3-3. These topics are addressed in Section 3.2.1 through 3.2.3. Section 3.2.4 discusses the industrial safety program that will be in place during decommissioning of the PBRF.

### 3.2.1 Fuel Removal

The PBRF was shut down in 1973. All nuclear fuel assemblies were removed from the PBRF between January and July 1973 and transported to a DOE facility.

**Table 3-3. Summary of Radioactive Waste Volumes, Packaging, Transportation, and Disposition**

Waste Type (Source)	Waste Classification	Waste Volume ft <sup>3</sup>	Typical Package Types	Transport Method	Disposition
Asbestos (Bldg. 1111, 1112, 1132, and 1133)	Class A	410	B-25 boxes	Truck or rail	Direct disposal at Class A facility
Loose paint scrapings/chips (Bldg. 1111, 1112, 1132, 1133, and 1134)	Mixed Waste (Class A radioactive waste, RCRA hazardous waste, TSCA toxic waste)	75	Drum (55-gal)	Truck or rail	Stabilization, then disposal at Class A facility
Loose Equipment (Mock-up reactor and low specific activity from Bldg. 1111, 1112 [including Hot Dry Storage Area waste], 1133, 1134, and 1141)	Class A	9,600	Sea-Lands (20 ft)	Truck or rail	Offsite processor for survey; release, decontamination, or Class A facility
Reactor core box and internals and activated metals (including waste in Hot Dry Storage Area)	Class A, B, & C	1,500	Metal liners (120 ft <sup>3</sup> & 50 ft <sup>3</sup> )	Truck	Direct disposal at Class B/C facility in shielded Type B cask
Reactor tank and tank components (sectioned)	Class A	2,200	Sea-Lands (20 ft)	Truck or rail	Offsite processor for survey; decontamination or Class A disposal, or recycle
Fixed Components (Bldgs. 1111 and 1112)	Class A	1,900	Sea-Lands (20 ft)	Truck or rail	Offsite processor for survey; decontamination or recycle
Concrete scabbling debris & decontamination wastes (several PBRF buildings and inground structures)	Class A	3,200	B-25 boxes	Truck or rail	Direct disposal at Class A facility
Contaminated piping & equipment (incl. heat exchangers, pumps, vessels, valves) (several PBRF buildings and inground structures)	Class A	29,100	Sea-Lands (20 ft)	Truck or rail	Offsite processor for survey; decontamination, Class A disposal, or recycle
Embedded piping & contaminated concrete (several PBRF buildings and in-ground structures)	Class A	11,600	Inter-modals (25 yd <sup>3</sup> )	Truck or rail	Direct disposal at Class A facility
Contaminated soils (Emergency Retention Basin, Pentolite Ditch, spill area)	Class A	48,200	Inter-modals (25 yd <sup>3</sup> ) or covered gondola	Truck or rail	Direct disposal at Class A facility
Dry active waste (including personnel protective clothing)	Class A	4,600	B-25 boxes or Sea-Lands (20 ft)	Truck or rail	Direct disposal at Class A facility

### 3.2.2 Radioactive Waste Processing

During the decommissioning activities, radioactive materials will be generated predominantly in solid form. The major source of waste during decommissioning will be solid waste generated by removing contaminated and activated concrete, removing activated and contaminated metallic components and structures, and excavating contaminated soil.

The systems and structures at the PBRF are dry, and there are no existing liquid wastes. Small amounts of contaminated liquids may be present in sumps and may be generated during decommissioning activities, such as concrete cutting operations, personnel decontamination, or possible use of decontamination solutions. These liquid wastes will be collected, characterized, and processed through a portable, skid-mounted filter/demineralization system. Treated liquids will be monitored and then transferred to a holding tank. The treated liquids would be transferred from the holding tank to a tank truck and hauled to a sanitary sewer manhole for discharge. A similar procedure would be used to dispose of sanitary waste generated at the modular sanitary facilities. The required discharge permits and agreements will be obtained for these activities.

Airborne radioactive material within buildings and containment envelopes will be filtered, and the particles collected by the filters will be disposed of as solid radioactive waste. Fugitive dust emissions will be controlled by using appropriate equipment, operational procedures, and containment, where necessary, during excavation activities.

Waste management is an integral part of the decommissioning plan and the plan includes provisions for minimizing the amount of waste generated as well as for waste collection, treatment, packaging, and shipment offsite for processing and disposal. The most cost-effective radioactive waste disposal strategy, consistent with ALARA, will be selected based on evaluating available methods for processing, packaging, and transporting radioactive waste in conjunction with available disposal facilities and their waste acceptance criteria.

Table 3-3 presents estimates of volumes of solid radioactive waste resulting from decommissioning the PBRF and lists wastes by type and location. Solid radioactive waste is expected to be primarily Class A waste. Decontamination will be performed onsite to minimize the spread of contamination and reduce personnel exposure during dismantlement activities. The ALARA review process will be used to determine the extent of decontamination. Contaminated systems, equipment, and components will be segmented to facilitate packaging for shipment to a licensed vendor providing decontamination, survey for release, and volume reduction services. Contaminated bulk commodities (i.e., concrete, construction debris, soil, and dry active waste) will be placed in proper disposal containers for shipment directly to the appropriate Class A disposal facility. Activated metals will be segmented using remotely-operated equipment, as necessary, or directly packaged in appropriate disposal containers for shielded cask transport to a Class B/C disposal facility.

Asbestos removed from the buildings identified in Table 3-3 will be handled as being radioactively contaminated and will be properly labeled and packaged in accordance with regulatory requirements. The packaged asbestos waste can be directly disposed of at a Class A disposal facility without further processing.

Radioactively-contaminated lead has not been identified during past characterization surveys. However, contaminated lead shielding would either be decontaminated (either onsite or at an offsite vendor facility) for recycling or packaged and shipped to a Class A disposal facility for macro-encapsulation and subsequent burial.

The only known potential mixed waste that will be generated during decontamination and dismantlement activities is paint scrapings and chips that contain lead and PCBs. Paint that contains lead and PCBs on the surface of dismantled components and materials would not be considered a mixed waste, and, therefore, not regulated by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) or the Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA). However, paint scrapings and chips may not pass leaching tests for lead and PCBs. It is conservatively assumed that ten 55-gallon drums of paint debris (approximately 75 ft<sup>3</sup>) will be generated during PBRF decommissioning activities. The drums of paint debris will be shipped to a licensed mixed waste disposal facility for micro-encapsulation and subsequent burial.

The overall philosophy and general approach for the PBRF waste management program is summarized below:

- Minimize onsite processing and focus on efficient removal and packaging
- Integrate onsite waste management operations, personnel, and facilities to optimize procedures and work processes and to reduce overall costs
- Avoid double handling of waste through efficient segmentation and properly designed material flow to appropriate waste containers
- Use low cost metal processor(s) for decontamination at an offsite location
- Use concrete from abovegrade portions of buildings as onsite fill to the extent possible under the NRC license termination criteria
- Minimize the generation of new waste through appropriately designed procedures
- Bury waste at the licensed low-level radioactive waste disposal facility that has the lowest total cost (including processing, packaging, transportation, and burial costs)
- Recycle hazardous waste whenever feasible, and treat hazardous waste as necessary to meet disposal criteria
- Operate with a truck shipment strategy that minimizes the need to stage radioactive waste on site awaiting shipment (where practical and appropriate for ALARA considerations)
- Use rail transport for bulk quantity waste and to the maximum extent possible to transport waste to a Class A disposal facility. Waste will be transported by truck from the PBRF to a nearby rail siding, transferred to rail cars, and transported by rail to an offsite disposal facility.

### 3.2.2.1 Waste Characterization

Proper waste characterization is required by the NRC, U.S. EPA, Ohio EPA, and U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT); the states in which the disposal facilities are located; and the license that regulates each disposal facility. Proper characterization is also important for waste minimization because improper identification and characterization can result in increasing the volume of low-level waste requiring disposal. Waste characterization is required by 10 CFR Part 61 for near surface burial of radioactive waste. Waste characterization data are also needed to (1) comply with the shipping regulations in 49 Parts CFR 172 and 173 for radioactive and other hazardous materials, (2) demonstrate compliance with the waste acceptance criteria at each disposal facility, and (3) comply with temporary storage requirements until the waste leaves the PBRF site. An industry-proven, commercially available database system will be used to capture waste characterization data for the PBRF decommissioning project. The Decommissioning Contractor's health physics staff will survey and characterize wastes as they are generated and packaged for shipment and disposal, following procedures approved by the waste disposal sites and/or waste processors, which will receive the waste.

Approximately 6435 m<sup>3</sup> (227,200 ft<sup>3</sup>) of non-radioactive building demolition debris (concrete and metal) that meets release criteria identified in Section 2.2.3 will be generated during PBRF decommissioning. Concrete will be used on site as backfill. Metal debris will be shipped in construction roll-offs for disposal at an industrial landfill. Non-radioactive, solid waste streams will be characterized, and a waste determination will be made in accordance with Ohio EPA hazardous waste management regulations using process knowledge and sampling and analysis, where appropriate. Non-radioactive waste will have concentrations of radionuclides less than limits established for the specific disposal site receiving the waste. The limits may come from dose calculations or regulatory guidance such as U.S. NRC Regulatory Guide 1.86 (USAEC 1974).

Waste characterization will also include those analyses necessary to demonstrate that hazardous wastes comply with the Land Disposal Restrictions specified in Ohio EPA hazardous waste management regulations. Any waste streams suspected of containing PCBs, asbestos, or special wastes<sup>1</sup> will be characterized in accordance with Ohio EPA and other applicable regulations to ensure proper storage and disposal.

---

<sup>1</sup> **Special Waste**—Special waste, as defined by Ohio EPA solid waste regulations, means any non-hazardous waste, generated by sources other than domestic and typical commercial establishments, that exists in such an unusual quantity or in such a chemical or physical state, or any combination thereof, which may disrupt or impair effective waste management or threaten the public health, human safety or the environment and requires special handling, transportation and disposal procedures. Special waste includes, but is not limited to:

- Oil, coal, wood and multi-fuel boiler and incinerator ash
- Industrial and industrial process waste
- Wastewater treatment plant sludge, paper mill sludge and other sludge waste
- Debris and residuals from non-hazardous chemical spills and cleanup of those spills
- Contaminated soils and dredge spoils
- Asbestos and asbestos containing waste
- Sand blast grit and non-liquid paint waste
- Medical and other potentially infectious or pathogenic waste
- High and low pH waste
- Spent filter media residue
- Shredder residue
- Other waste designated by the Ohio EPA, by rule.

### **3.2.2.2 Waste Packaging and Transport**

The packaging and transport of radioactive and other hazardous materials will be in compliance with the applicable NRC, DOT, and state regulations. Each type of waste is controlled by different regulations, and within the regulations there are opportunities for developing lowest cost solutions. A general strategy for packaging and transporting waste generated from decommissioning is discussed below.

Radioactive waste processors will provide reusable containers (e.g., 2.4 m [8 ft] wide × 2.4 m [8 ft] high × 6 m [20 ft] long Sea-Lands and B-25 boxes) necessary to transport material to the processing facility. For one-way shipments of waste for direct disposal, various containers such as inter-modals, high integrity containers, B-25 boxes, metal liners, and special design strong tight containers will be used. Typical containers used for packaging of waste are shown in the fourth column of Table 3-3. Some types of radioactive wastes may require licensed or certified packaging and/or require transportation in shielded transport casks. The reactor tank internals could potentially be sectioned, packaged in standard 3.4-m<sup>3</sup> (120 ft<sup>3</sup>) metal containers, and shipped as a Type B package in a licensed cask. The beryllium shielding has the potential, depending upon characterization results, to be shipped offsite to a waste processing facility for recycling. Packaged waste could be transported either by truck or rail.

Any mixed, hazardous, Special, PCB, and asbestos wastes will be packaged and transported offsite for disposal in accordance with DOT Hazardous Materials Transportation regulations in 49 CFR, as necessary.

### **3.2.3 Radioactive Waste Disposal**

Procedures will be used for the handling, staging, and shipping packaged radioactive waste in accordance with 10 CFR 20.2006, "Transfer for Disposal and Manifests"; 49 CFR 100-177, "Transportation of Hazardous Materials"; 10 CFR 61, "Licensing Requirements for Land Disposal of Radioactive Waste;" and the disposal or processing facility license conditions. The disposition of wastes generated from PBRF decommissioning activities are shown in the last column of Table 3-3. Wastes may be shipped to a licensed processing facility for survey and release or decontamination and release, or may be or disposed of directly at a licensed Class A, Class B/C, or mixed waste facility.

#### **3.2.3.1 Radioactive Material Shipment Manifest**

Each shipment of radioactive waste must be accompanied by a shipment manifest as specified in Section I of Appendix F to 10 CFR 20, "Requirements for Low-Level Waste Transfer for Disposal at Land Facilities and Manifests." Radioactive waste generated from PBRF decommissioning activities will be manifested consistent with its waste classification.

#### **3.2.3.2 Waste Minimization**

Waste disposal costs are directly related to the activity, volume, and weight of the materials requiring disposal. Strategies for minimizing waste requiring disposal will be employed for

decommissioning activities. The following sections summarize the methods for waste minimization.

### **Source Reduction**

Ongoing sampling and analysis activities during decommissioning will better define the range of contamination and further reduce the quantity of specific waste streams. Chemical and radiological characterization will be used throughout decommissioning to verify levels of contamination for waste certification and disposal purposes. Characterization will ensure that waste containers leaving the PBRF are properly certified and that non-contaminated materials are adequately separated.

Use of chemicals and cleaning solutions will be minimized as much as practical. Radioactive solutions that become contaminated with chemicals or cleaners may be separated from other aqueous wastes before processing.

Steel reinforcement bars and other structural metal will be removed from non-radioactive concrete rubble as much as possible or cut flush to the surface of the concrete. This will allow more concrete to be used onsite as backfill.

### **Reuse**

Reuse of materials in radioactively contaminated areas will minimize waste generation. Items such as 55-gal drums, spray bottles, tools, equipment, radiation sign postings, water, and air hoses will be reused wherever possible. Water used for cutting operations and cooling processes will be filtered, monitored, and reused to the extent possible. Decontaminated areas will be maintained clean to prevent contamination of items planned to be reused. Cleaning solutions, such as those used in ultrasonic sinks, will be filtered, tested, and reused if practical to prevent premature disposal and replacement.

### **Decontamination**

Wherever possible, radioactive waste disposal will follow a "rip and ship" philosophy where contaminated components are removed in whole or in part and shipped to an offsite vendor for decontamination. The offsite vendor may perform decontamination to free release materials, reduce waste volumes, and/or reduce waste activity.

Onsite decontamination will be performed only when shown to be cost effective. Decontamination efforts may include vacuuming, CO<sub>2</sub> blasting, solvent and/or wet wiping, and scabbling to remove surface contamination, where practical. Where concrete is contaminated to limited depths, scabbling techniques may be used to separate the contaminated surface layer (which will be radioactive waste) from the rest of the concrete so that when demolished, the concrete debris can be used onsite as backfill. Personnel protective clothing will be packaged and transported offsite to either a licensed vendor where contamination will be removed by washing or to a licensed disposal facility.

## **Volume Reduction**

During dismantling activities, equipment, piping, and ductwork will be volume reduced, where practicable, by crushing and cutting to size to eliminate void spaces in the waste packages. During loading activities, non-reusable personal protective equipment and other wastes (non-hazardous sandblast grit) will be used to fill void spaces in burial containers, when appropriate. Techniques such as efficient packaging will be used to minimize the number of containers. Volume of specific types of waste may be evaluated to ensure that void spaces will be minimized and proper size containers are used. For example, consolidation and compaction of large volumes of non-reusable personnel protective equipment will be considered for waste volume reduction.

## **Waste Stream Segregation**

Waste streams will be kept separate to the extent practical to reduce the potential for cross contamination. Solid material and trash from radiologically controlled zones will be classified onsite or shipped to an offsite processor for classification and disposition. Decontaminated areas and equipment will be clearly marked to prevent reintroduction of radioactive material.

### **3.2.4 General Industrial Safety Program**

This section describes the general industrial safety program that NASA will apply during the decommissioning of PBRF. Non-radiological hazards associated with decommissioning will be managed according to the requirements of the latest revisions of the *NASA Glenn Research Center Safety Manual* and the *NASA Glenn Environmental Programs Manual*. These manuals define NASA safety and environmental requirements.

Specific authority and responsibility for industrial safety are discussed in Section 2.4 of this plan. The industrial safety program during decommissioning activities will comply with the *NASA Glenn Research Center Safety Manual* and be implemented in accordance with 29 CFR Part 1910, "Occupational Safety and Health Standards," and 29 CFR Part 1926, "Safety and Health Regulations for Construction." The NASA Decommissioning Team will oversee all industrial safety, industrial hygiene, and other environmental health services and related support activities during the decommissioning of the PBRF. The day-to-day safety oversight will be provided by the NASA Plum Brook Safety Officer, the NASA Construction Manager, the Safety and Health Engineer (Contractor, Decommissioning Technical Support Team), and the Health Physicist (Contractor, Decommissioning Technical Support Team) as described in Section 2.4. The Decommissioning Safety Committee will conduct safety reviews of all matters with safety implications relative to the decommissioning of the PBRF, including environmental safety, industrial hygiene, and industrial safety. Any worker has the authority to shut down any operation or activity within the PBRF on a question of occupational health and safety if immediate corrective action is not taken until an appropriate technical review has been conducted.

All decommissioning activities will be performed under procedures and controls approved by NASA management, the NASA Radiation Safety Officer, and the Decommissioning Safety Committee to ensure employee and public safety. Any task involving a potential safety hazard will be reviewed in advance by industrial safety personnel for adequacy of safety controls.

Decommissioning procedures will specify applicable requirements for industrial safety requirements and limitations. Safe Work Permits will be required by procedure to ensure the safety of personnel in situations where controls are needed to perform the work safely under potentially hazardous conditions such as burning, welding, cutting and electrical lockout operations.

Industrial hazards may include the handling of decontaminating chemical agents, cutting with oxy-acetylene and arc-type torches, rigging for component removal, and the routine industrial hazards normally associated with construction or decommissioning. Industrial hazards will be minimized to the extent practical as described in Section 2.3.1.4. Industrial hazards that cannot be eliminated will be managed by worker training; use of written, approved procedures; and NASA overview of all work. Compliance with procedures will be audited.

Personnel trained to provide first aid and prompt response to an accident situation will be available during decommissioning activities.

The following sections outline typical provisions for industrial safety and hygiene, which will be implemented during decommissioning activities.

#### ***3.2.4.1 Occupational Health and Environmental Control***

The occupational health of workers during decommissioning activities will be protected by providing adequate facilities and systems as follows:

- Training and procedures as discussed in Section 2.5
- First aid supplies within work areas
- Emergency shower and eye wash facilities
- Trained first aid personnel and ambulance service readily available from off site
- Environmental controls in the work space to include adequate ventilation and dust control, temperature control, illumination, noise control, potable water, and sanitary facilities
- Fire protection in accordance with Section 3.2.4.5.

#### ***3.2.4.2 Personal Protective Devices***

Protective devices provided for workers involved in decommissioning activities will include

- Hard hats and safety shoes for protection against impact and penetration of falling or flying objects
- Gloves
- Hearing protection devices

- Eye and face protection for workers exposed to potential injury from physical or chemical agents
- Respiratory protection devices.

Operations involving protective equipment will be reviewed to ensure that the workers will not be subjected to hazards as a result of using protective equipment. Heat stress controls will be in effect whenever conditions for heat stress exist.

#### ***3.2.4.3 Hearing Conservation Program***

A hearing conservation program will be established for all workers who are exposed to noise levels of 85 decibel A-weighted (dBA) or greater (as an 8-hour, time-weighted average exposure). The hearing conservation program will be in accordance with 29 CFR 1910.95. Noise control measures, including the requirement to wear hearing protection equipment, will be determined by the Decommissioning Contractor. Personnel who are assigned tasks in known noise hazardous areas ( $\geq 85$  dBA) will be required to use hearing protection devices. Records will be maintained that document the implementation of noise monitoring, employee training, control measures, and protective equipment.

#### ***3.2.4.4 Respiratory Protection Program***

Regulatory requirements and safety program procedures will be followed to prevent worker exposure to occupational dusts, fumes, mists, radionuclides, gases, and vapors above OSHA limits as stated in 29 CFR 1910.1000. Respiratory protection measures, including the requirement to wear respirators, will be determined by industrial safety personnel in accordance with 29 CFR 1910.134 "Respiratory Protection." Only respirators approved by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) will be used. Individual workers will be tested and certified prior to being allowed to work while wearing a respirator. Records will be maintained to document air monitoring conducted, employee training conducted, medical monitoring done, control measures implemented, and protective equipment used.

#### ***3.2.4.5 Fire Protection and Prevention***

Fire protection devices will be made available during decommissioning tasks. Portable fire extinguishers will be strategically located throughout the PBRF to serve areas for the various decommissioning activities. Decommissioning employees will be trained in the use of fire extinguishers to ensure that each shift is staffed with people trained in the use of fire extinguishers.

Fire protection measures will be implemented to avoid ignition hazards from electrical wiring and equipment and from combustible materials. Smoking will not be permitted within the PBRF fence.

Safe Work Permits will be followed for burning, welding, cutting, and other fire potential operations.

#### **3.2.4.6 Hand and Power Tools and Cutting Equipment**

The condition of the hand and power tools used during decommissioning activities will be routinely checked for proper operation and for use in compliance with the applicable provisions of 29 CFR Part 1926, Subpart I, "Tools-Hand and Power" and 29 CFR Part 1926, Subpart J, "Welding and Cutting."

#### **3.2.4.7 Fall Protection**

Decommissioning operations will be conducted in accordance with the applicable provisions of 29 CFR 1926 Subpart M, "Fall Protection" and Subpart L, "Scaffolds."

#### **3.2.4.8 Lifting Equipment**

Lifting equipment used in the decommissioning activities will comply with the applicable provisions of 29 CFR Part 1926, Subpart N, "Cranes, Derricks, Hoists, Elevators and Conveyors," and 29 CFR Part 1926, Subpart H, "Materials Handling, Storage Use, and Disposal." Maintenance program requirements will be performed in accordance with these regulatory requirements.

#### **3.2.4.9 Excavations**

Excavations required during decommissioning activities will comply with applicable provisions of 29 CFR Part 1926, Subpart P, "Excavations, Trenching and Shoring." These provisions include tapered sides of excavations, daily inspections of excavations, and bracing of sides when heavy equipment is used in the vicinity.

#### **3.2.4.10 Working in Confined Space Areas**

Operations required in the confined spaces will comply with applicable provisions of 29 CFR 1910.146. The *NASA Glenn Research Center Safety Manual* establishes specific requirements for confined space entry, and these requirements will apply to all PBRF confined space entries.

#### **3.2.4.11 Lockout/Tagout**

Lockout/Tagout procedures will be implemented in accordance with OSHA requirements in 29 CFR 1910.147. The *NASA Glenn Research Center Safety Manual* establishes specific requirements for lockout/tagout that will be applied to PBRF decommissioning activities.

#### **3.2.4.12 Asbestos Removal**

Asbestos removal operations required during decommissioning activities will comply with applicable provisions of OSHA standards 29 CFR 1926.1101 and 1910.1001 and applicable State laws. The *Glenn Environmental Programs Manual* establishes specific requirements for working with asbestos. These requirements will apply to all PBRF asbestos handling operations.

### **3.2.4.13 Lead Paint Removal**

Lead paint removal operation during decommissioning will comply with the applicable provisions of OSHA standards 29 CFR Part 6 1926, particularly 29 CFR 1926.62. The *Glenn Environmental Programs Manual* establishes specific requirements for handling, removal, and disposal of lead.

### **3.2.4.14 Demolition**

Demolition operations will comply with the applicable portion of 10 CFR 1926 Subpart T, "Demolition."

## **3.3 Radiological Accident Analyses**

This section identifies potential radiological accidents that could occur during decommissioning of the PBRF and affect the public or occupational health and safety. Conclusions are presented as to the acceptability of the results of the accident analysis. A systematic approach to hazard evaluation and accident analysis that is consistent with the method described in the NRC's recently updated *Nuclear Fuel Cycle Facility Accident Analysis Handbook* (SAIC 1998) was used. The approach adopted is a screening analysis at a level of detail consistent with existing information about the radiological hazards at the PBRF.

A screening analysis approach is appropriate for accident analysis because the radioactive inventories at the PBRF are very small compared to those in operating reactors (both power and non-power) and in various kinds of fuel cycle facilities subject to NRC regulation. The screening analysis for the PBRF consists of identifying and analyzing plausible accident scenarios that could occur during decommissioning activities. A key conservative assumption used for all the scenarios was to neglect the impact of potential design and/or procedural controls, such as air filtering systems. The analyses show that the doses to the public from potential accidents are below the U.S. EPA PAGs that have been developed to protect members of the public from the consequences of accidents (USEPA 1992). Also, doses to workers from potential accidents are below the permitted annual exposure limits. Therefore, no new protective measures are required to protect public or occupational health and safety.

Section 3.3.1 identifies potential radiological accidents at the PBRF based on decommissioning activities and radiological hazards. Section 3.3.2 contains an analysis of potential accident scenarios to estimate the TEDE to a member of the public at the PBRF site boundary. Section 3.3.3 presents bounding estimates of worker exposure from worst-case accident scenarios.

### **3.3.1 Potential Radiological Accidents**

Identifying potential accident scenarios included evaluating PBRF areas that contain the highest inventories of radioactive material, describing energy sources and external events, reviewing proposed activities, and considering combinations of these elements that could lead to a release of radioactive material. This identification process was supplemented by reviewing

experience at other decommissioning projects and reviewing lists of potential accident scenarios developed for decommissioning activities at reactor facilities (Murphy 1978) and fuel cycle facilities (Schneider and Jenkins 1977). This process is consistent with the hazard evaluation steps identified in the *Nuclear Fuel Cycle Facility Accident Analysis Handbook* (SAIC 1998). Because of the limited inventory, the evaluation of accident scenarios conservatively assumed that no design or procedural controls would be available to prevent or mitigate accidental releases, even though such controls will be implemented during decommissioning activities. This assumption allows for a worst-case accident analysis to be performed.

### **3.3.1.1 Highest Radionuclide Inventories at the PBRF**

The radiological inventories contained at the PBRF are summarized in Section 2.2.2, "Current Radiological Status of the Facility," of this plan. The reactor tank in the Reactor Building (Building 1111) has the highest inventory of any interior building area at the PBRF, an estimated 37,408 curies (Ci) (in the year 2003). Most of the inventory is tritium (H-3), together with 92 Ci of Co-60, and smaller inventories of other radionuclides. Therefore, potential accidents during decommissioning of the reactor tank are assigned the highest priority for this accident analysis. The Hot Dry Storage Area in the Hot Laboratory (Building 1112) has the second largest inventory, an estimated 8798 Ci, most of which is H-3. Most (559-Ci) of the remainder inventory is Co-60.

All of the other buildings and structures at the PBRF have small radioactive inventories compared to these two areas. In addition, no types of accidents were identified in these other buildings and structures that differ from those discussed in Section 3.3.1.2. Therefore, the results of accident analyses conducted for decommissioning the reactor tank and Hot Dry Storage Area bound the potential impacts of inside accidents during decommissioning of the PBRF.

Accidents could also occur outside buildings in soil at areas of past environmental contamination. These areas include the Emergency Retention Basin, the drainage system, the Water Effluent Monitoring Station, the Pentolite Ditch, and two known low-level waste spill areas. The area with the greatest radionuclide inventory is the Emergency Retention Basin, estimated to contain 0.15 Ci of Cs-137, 0.015 Ci of Co-60, and 0.011 Ci of Sr-90. Therefore, the results of accident analyses conducted for decontaminating the Emergency Retention Basin bound the potential impacts of exterior accidents at the PBRF.

### **3.3.1.2 Potential Accident Scenarios**

Considering the planned decommissioning activities, accident scenarios that could result in releasing radioactive material as airborne particles small enough to be respirable were evaluated. Such releases could occur during cutting operations, dropping of a radioactively contaminated component, or dropping of a container of radioactively contaminated dust or soil. Because all PBRF buildings are outside of the 500-year floodplain and releases from the Emergency Retention Basin will be monitored and controlled, extreme precipitation events are not expected to cause offsite radiological impacts. The potential onsite and offsite impacts of accidents will be mitigated by emergency procedures required by PBRF technical specifications (Mendonca 1998). The emergency procedures include providing personnel trained to respond to fires, floods, and tornadoes.

Based on the decommissioning activities outlined in Section 2.3.1 and the radiological inventories identified in Section 3.3.1.1, the following accident scenarios were evaluated:

- The reactor tank will be dismantled by cutting it into pieces, and the pieces will be lifted and put into containers for transport off site. An accident during a cutting operation could result in small, radioactive particles becoming airborne.
- The Hot Dry Storage Area contains various reactor components that remained after the reactor was shut down and the core removed. During decommissioning, these components will be lifted and placed into transport containers. This is a very simple operation, and the worst-case accident scenario would be dropping one of these components as it is being lifted.
- The walls of some of the buildings will likely be decontaminated. The most intrusive decontamination method would be to scrape the concrete walls, producing a fine dust. This dust would be placed in a container, such as a 55-gal drum, which could potentially be dropped and then burst.
- Areas of environmental contamination outside of buildings, such as the Emergency Retention Basin, will be decontaminated by digging up contaminated soil and placing it into containers. Either the digging operations or dropping of a container that then bursts could produce airborne particles.
- The potential for fires was also considered. The materials in the Reactor Building and Hot Dry Storage Area are metals, concrete, or similar materials. It is considered highly unlikely that a fire will start or that a fire could become intense enough to release radioactive material. Impacts of releases from a fire involving dry solid waste (i.e., rags, wipes, and anticontamination clothing) were considered.

### **3.3.2 Evaluation of Public Impact from Accident Scenarios**

This section further develops and analyzes accidents having the greatest potential for offsite impacts to estimate the TEDE to a member of the public. The following accident scenarios were analyzed:

- Release during cutting of the reactor tank
- Dropping a component from the Hot Dry Storage Area
- Dropping a drum of contaminated concrete dust
- Release while removing contaminated soil from the Emergency Retention Basin.

#### **3.3.2.1 Assumptions**

The following assumptions were used in all of the accident analyses:

- Except where otherwise stated, the radionuclide inventories were decayed to the year 2003, when it was assumed the decommissioning activities would occur. (A variation of a few years before or after this date will only result in a small percentage change in the inventory estimates.)

- No credit was taken for a filter located between the source of the release and the external atmosphere. Because filters will be used in indoor work areas, this is a conservative assumption for releases occurring inside PBRF buildings, such as the Reactor Building. Generally, HEPA filters having inplace tested removal efficiencies of 99.95% will be used.
- When released material travels through the Reactor Building, no plateout (i.e., adsorption onto solid surfaces) or other deposition mechanisms were assumed to occur before the release reaches the external atmosphere.
- To be conservative, unfavorable weather conditions for atmospheric dispersion were assumed. In accordance with the *Nuclear Fuel Cycle Facility Accident Analysis Handbook* (SAIC 1998) and for purposes of analysis, atmospheric stability class F with a windspeed of 2 m/s (6.6 ft/s) was assumed, which represents a “severe meteorological condition.” In addition, the radioactive material was assumed to be released at ground level and to remain airborne as it travels downwind.
- Radioactive material was assumed to be transported to the closest site boundary (i.e., a distance of approximately 0.8 km (0.5 mi)). This is a conservative assumption because the nearest dwelling is located outside the PBRF fence at a distance of 0.9 km (0.55 mi), and more dispersion would occur before the material reaches the dwelling.

### 3.3.2.2 Methodology for Calculating Total Effective Dose Equivalent

The consequences of accidents were quantified by calculating the TEDE to a member of the public at the site boundary. Then the calculated TEDE was compared to the U.S. EPA’s lower PAG of 1 rem (1000 mrem), to determine whether or not the calculated exposure is acceptable. Equation 3-1 was used to calculate the TEDE:<sup>2</sup>

$$\text{TEDE}_i = \text{CEDE}_i + \text{Ext}_i \quad (3-1)$$

where

TEDE = total effective dose equivalent  
 CEDE = committed effective dose equivalent  
 Ext = contribution from external irradiation  
*i* = radionuclide.

The committed effective dose equivalent (CEDE) is the dose contribution from inhalation as the cloud passes by the receptor. Consistent with the lung model developed by the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP 1979), the CEDE is found by

$$\text{CEDE}_i = Q_i (\Pi/Q) \times B \times D_i \quad (3-2)$$

<sup>2</sup> This estimate of the TEDE neglects any contribution from gamma rays emitted by radionuclides deposited on the ground. Such doses build up relatively slowly and, if necessary, can be controlled by various countermeasures.

where

$Q_i$  = the total released activity of nuclide  $i$ , in Ci

$\Pi/Q$  = the airborne dosage (concentration integrated over the duration of cloud passage) per unit activity released, in  $\text{s/m}^3$ . The derivation of  $\Pi/Q$  presented in Appendix B shows that for a distance of 0.8 km (0.5 mi) in atmospheric stability class F with a windspeed of 2 m/s,  $\Pi/Q = 5 \times 10^{-4} \text{ s/m}^3$ .

$B$  = the breathing rate, typically  $3.3 \times 10^{-4} \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$ . (This is the breathing rate for adults during light activity [ICRP 1979]).

$D_i$  = the factor that converts the amount of activity inhaled into the CEDE. Values of  $D_i$  are given in Federal Guidance Report No. 11 (USEPA 1988).

The dose contribution from external irradiation is found by

$$\text{Ext}_i = Q_i (\Pi/Q) F_i \quad (3-3)$$

where

$F_i$  = the dose coefficient for air submersion. Values of  $F_i$  are given in Federal Guidance Report No. 12 (USEPA 1993).

### ***3.3.2.3 Scenario 1: Cutting Reactor Tank Internal Components with a Plasma Torch Releases Activation Products***

The estimated inventory in the reactor tank at the time decommissioning is expected to occur (refer to Section 2.2.2.2) is 37,408 Ci, most of which will be H-3. The remaining inventory will be Co-60 (92 Ci); Fe-55 (10.5 Ci); Ni-63 (37 Ci); and relatively small amounts of Ni-59, Al-26, and Cd-113m. During decommissioning, the reactor tank will be cut up into pieces and the pieces removed and disposed of as described in Section 2.3.1.3, WEN 2.2.2.11. The engineering details of this activity have not been finalized, but for purposes of analysis, the following assumptions were made:

1. Cutting, disassembly, and packaging operations inside the reactor tank would be performed using remotely operated equipment. (It was assumed that the reactor tank was dry.)
2. The cutting operation would be performed using mechanical tools or flame cutting. However, to be conservative, it was assumed that a plasma torch would be used because it would vaporize more of the radioactive materials in the reactor tank internals than the technologies identified in Section 2.3.1.3.
3. It is assumed that the plasma torch cutting operation completely vaporizes a portion of the reactor tank or its internals equivalent to a  $6.5\text{-cm}^2$  (1-in<sup>2</sup>) area with a 0.64-cm, (0.25-in.) thickness (i.e., a volume of approximately  $4 \text{ cm}^3$  [0.24 in<sup>3</sup>]). This volume corresponds to a 10-cm (4-in.) long cut, 0.64-cm (0.25-in.) wide and 0.64-cm (0.25-in.) deep. This is a cross section that is typical of plasma torches. The volume of  $4 \text{ cm}^3$  (0.24 in<sup>3</sup>) far exceeds the volume of material that might become airborne from

mechanical cutting operations. A fine airborne particulate is produced that is assumed to be entirely within the respirable range (i.e., with particle sizes <10 μm).

4. It is assumed that the item in the reactor tank with the highest radionuclide contamination is involved in the accident. Table A-4 (Radioactivity Analysis) in NASA's 1980 *Environmental Report, Plum Brook Reactor Dismantling* (NASA 1980a) gives the activity levels in and masses of 38 different items in the reactor tank. The most contaminated items are 75 miscellaneous 304-stainless steel bolts with a total mass (all 75 bolts) of 1940 g (68 oz). The 1980 inventory estimates were adjusted to the year 2003, at which time the bolts would contain approximately 0.276 Ci of Fe-55, 0.923 Ci of Co-60, 1.28 Ci of Ni-63, and much lower activities of other radionuclides. The inventory of each nuclide was divided by the total mass, resulting in radionuclide concentrations of  $1.4 \times 10^{-4}$ ,  $4.76 \times 10^{-4}$ , and  $6.61 \times 10^{-4}$  Ci/g for Fe-55, Co-60, and Ni-63, respectively. The concentrations of these beta- and gamma-emitting radionuclides were used as an upper bound for activities that could be released by a cutting accident.

The above assumptions are considered to be conservative.

The calculation of the TEDE for Scenario 1 is summarized in Table 3-4.  $Q_i$  is the total released activity in curies of nuclide  $i$ . Using a typical steel density of  $7.86 \text{ g/cm}^3$  ( $0.28 \text{ lb/in.}^3$ ), the mass of the nuclide that is released from the  $4 \text{ cm}^3$  ( $0.24 \text{ in.}^3$ ) of steel vaporized is  $4 \times 7.86 = 31.44 \text{ g}$  (or 1.1 oz). Multiplying the activity densities given in assumption #4 above by 31.44 g (1.1 oz) yields the total activities released in curies,  $Q_i$ , as shown in the second column of Table 3-4. The third column of Table 3-4 presents the values of  $D_i$  from U.S. EPA (1988): Using values of  $\Pi/Q = 5 \times 10^{-4} \text{ s/m}^3$  and  $B = 3.3 \times 10^{-4} \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$  (see Section 3.3.2.2) and the values of  $Q_i$  and  $D_i$  from Table 3-4 in Equation 3-2 yields the values of CEDE in the fifth column of Table 3-4.

**Table 3-4. Values used to Calculate TEDE for Scenario 1: Cutting Reactor Tank Internal Components with a Plasma Torch**

Nuclide $i$	$Q_i$ (Ci)	$D_i$ (mrem/Ci)	$F_i$ ([mrem/s]/[Ci/m <sup>3</sup> ])	CEDE <sub><math>i</math></sub> (mrem)	Ext <sub><math>i</math></sub> (mrem)	TEDE <sub><math>i</math></sub> (mrem)
Fe-55	0.0044	$2.69 \times 10^6$	0	0.002	0	0.002
Co-60	0.015	$2.19 \times 10^8$	466.2	0.5	0.0035	0.5035
Ni-63	0.0208	$6.29 \times 10^6$ *	0	0.022	0	0.022
Total	--	--	--	0.524	0.0035	0.5275

\* This is the value for Ni-63 as a vapor. This is a conservative assumption because the Ni-63 will condense into fine particles as it mixes in the air in the reactor building.

The values of  $F_i$  from U.S. EPA (1993) are presented in the fourth column of Table 3-4.  $F_i$  is zero for both Fe-55 and Ni-63 because neither of these nuclides emit gamma rays. Using Equation 3-3, the dose contribution from external irradiation, Ext <sub>$i$</sub> , was calculated and presented in the sixth column of Table 3-4. As shown in Table 3-4, the total dose contribution from external irradiation (0.0035 mrem) is only a small fraction (< 0.01) of that from the inhalation pathway (0.524 mrem).

The fifth and sixth columns of Table 3-4 show that the dominant radionuclide from a postulated release during reactor dismantling operations would be Co-60. The TEDE (whole body dose) is the sum of the internal (CEDE) and external (Ext) doses. The last column of Table 3-4 shows that the total TEDE is very small, approximately 0.5 mrem. Thus, the TEDE from Scenario 1 is a factor of approximately 2000 lower than the U.S. EPA's lower PAG of 1 rem (1000 mrem) (USEPA 1992).

### 3.3.2.4 Scenario 2: Cutting a Beryllium Component in the Reactor Tank with a Plasma Torch Releases Tritium

As discussed in Section 2.2.2.2, the reactor tank and the Hot Dry Storage Area are estimated to contain 37,266 Ci and 8,222 Ci of H-3, respectively. In the reactor tank, most of the H-3 is in irradiated components that contain beryllium. For example, the set of "RA pieces with plugs" [Item 21 in Appendix A of NASA's environmental report (NASA 1980a)] was estimated to contain 16,900 Ci of H-3 in 1993 and weighs 113,000 g (249 lb). By 2003, this inventory will have decayed to approximately 9100 Ci. The corresponding activity density is 9100 Ci/113,000 g = 0.08 Ci/g.

A cutting accident where it was assumed that 4 cm<sup>3</sup> (0.24 in<sup>3</sup>) of the irradiated components is vaporized was analyzed. The density of beryllium is 1.8 g/cm<sup>3</sup>; therefore, 4 cm<sup>3</sup> × 1.8 g/cm<sup>3</sup> = 7.2 g (0.25 oz) would become airborne. The total activity released, Q<sub>i</sub>, is 7.2 g × 0.08 Ci/g = 0.576 Ci.

The TEDE from this release can be estimated using Equation 3-1. Using a D<sub>i</sub> value of 6.40 × 10<sup>-4</sup> mrem/Ci for H-3, and the Π/Q and B values from Section 3.3.2.2, the CEDE was calculated using Equation 3-2:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{CEDE}_{\text{H-3}} &= (0.576)(5.0 \times 10^{-4})(3.3-3 \times 10^{-4})(6.40 \times 10^{-4}) \\ &= 0.006 \text{ mrem.} \end{aligned}$$

Using an F<sub>i</sub> value of 0.0012 mrem-m<sup>3</sup>/s-Ci for H-3, the contribution from external irradiation is found by Equation 3-3:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Ext}_{\text{H-3}} &= (0.576)(5.0 \times 10^{-4})(0.0012) \\ &= 3.46 \times 10^{-7} \text{ mrem.} \end{aligned}$$

Thus, the TEDE = CEDE + Ext = 0.006 + 3.46 × 10<sup>-7</sup> = 0.006 mrem, which is 6 orders of magnitude lower than U.S. EPA's lower PAG of 1 rem (1000 mrem). Also, the TEDE calculated for Scenario 2 is nearly a factor of 100 lower than the TEDE calculated for Scenario 1 in Section 3.3.2.3. (For perspective, the inventory of H-3 that would have to be released to cause a TEDE approaching 1 rem [1000 mrem] at the site boundary is 0.576 × 1,000/0.006 = 96,000 Ci, which is more than the entire H-3 inventory in the whole PBRF.)

### **3.3.2.5 Scenario 3: Dropping a Component Stored in the Hot Dry Storage Area**

Most of the activity in Hot Dry Storage Area is contained in stored contaminated components [refer to Table A-5 of NASA (1980a)] that include control rods, beryllium L-shaped pieces, instrument thimbles, etc. Some of these individual pieces were estimated to contain hundreds of curies in 1993 (assuming 20 years of decay after the 1973 reference point). Each beryllium control rod contains approximately 800 Ci (mostly H-3, but approximately 10% Co-60).

Because no cutting operations are planned for the components stored in the Hot Dry Storage Area, no cutting accident was postulated. However, a stored component could be dropped while it is lifted for placement into a shipping container. It would be highly unlikely for a component to break. If it did break, the diameters of any particles produced would be large enough that it is unlikely that the particles would remain airborne and be respirable. Therefore, no plausible accident was postulated that could result in measurable exposures at the site boundary. The TEDE would be much less than the 0.5 mrem calculated for Scenario 1 in Section 3.3.2.3; therefore, it would be many orders of magnitude less than the U.S. EPA's lower PAG of 1 rem (1000 mrem) (USEPA 1992).

### **3.3.2.6 Scenario 4: Dropping a 55-Gallon Drum of Contaminated Concrete Dust Generated from the Biological Shield or Hot Cells**

Radiological survey data described in Section 2.2.2 indicate the greatest activity contained in concrete structures at the PBRF is in the biological shield surrounding the reactor tank and the wall and floors of the hot cells. In 1985, measured activity levels of Co-60 in the biological shield varied from less than 1 to 33 pCi/g (Teledyne Isotopes 1987). Using the 33 pCi/g as a conservative upper bound and calculating radioactive decay for another 20 years (i.e., to about the year when decommissioning activities would occur) leads to a predicted activity concentration of 2.4 pCi/g.

It was assumed that a 55-gal drum (a volume of  $0.21 \text{ m}^3$  [ $7.5 \text{ ft}^3$ ]) of concrete dust or fine particulate was generated from decontaminating either the biological shield or the hot cells. Assuming a conservative concrete density of approximately  $3 \text{ g/cm}^3$ , the 55-gal drum would contain approximately  $6.4 \times 10^5 \text{ g}$  of dust. Assuming a Co-60 concentration of 2.4 pCi/g, there would be  $(6.4 \times 10^5) \times (2.4 \times 10^{-12}) = 1.5 \times 10^{-6} \text{ Ci}$  in the drum. This activity is many orders of magnitude less than the 0.015 Ci calculated for Scenario 1 in Section 3.3.2.3, which resulted in a TEDE of 0.5 mrem. Therefore, even if the contents of a whole drum were spilled and became airborne in respirable form (which is physically unrealistic), the predicted TEDE at the site boundary would be more than 6 orders of magnitude less than the U.S. EPA's lower PAG of 1 rem (1000 mrem) (USEPA 1992).

### **3.3.2.7 Scenario 5: Contaminated Soil Released from the Emergency Retention Basin**

The area of contaminated soil at the PBRF having the highest radionuclide inventory is the Emergency Retention Basin. At the Emergency Retention Basin, the estimated concentrations of Cs-137, Co-60, and Sr-90 are approximately 200, 20, and 20 pCi/g, respectively. If an entire 55-gal drum of this contaminated soil became airborne in respirable form (i.e., approximately  $3.3 \times 10^5 \text{ g}$ , assuming a soil density of  $1.56 \text{ g/cm}^3$  from Section 2.2.3.1), the airborne quantities of Cs-137, Co-60, and Sr-90 would be  $6.6 \times 10^{-5}$ ,  $6.6 \times 10^{-6}$ , and  $6.6 \times 10^{-6} \text{ Ci}$ , respectively. Using

the values of  $\Pi/Q$  and  $B$  given in Section 3.3.2.2 in Equations 3-1 through 3-3, the CEDE, the contribution from external irradiation (Ext), and the TEDE were calculated as shown in Table 3-5.

**Table 3-5. Values Used to Calculate TEDE for Scenario 5: Contaminated Soil Released from the Emergency Retention Basin**

Nuclide $i$	$Q_i$ (Ci)	$D_i$ (mrem/Ci)	$F_i$ ([mrem/s]/[Ci/m <sup>3</sup> ])	CEDE <sub><math>i</math></sub> (mrem)	Ext <sub><math>i</math></sub> (mrem)	TEDE <sub><math>i</math></sub> (mrem)
Cs-137	$6.6 \times 10^{-5}$	$3.2 \times 10^7$	101	0.0003	$2 \times 10^{-5}$	0.0003
Co-60	$6.6 \times 10^{-6}$	$2.19 \times 10^8$	466.2	0.0002	$9 \times 10^{-6}$	0.0002
Sr-90	$6.6 \times 10^{-6}$	$1.30 \times 10^9$	0.0278	0.0014	$5 \times 10^{-10}$	0.0014
Total	--	--	--	0.0019	$2.9 \times 10^{-6}$	0.0019

As shown in Table 3-5, the TEDE is 0.0019 mrem, to which the external dose is a negligible (0.1%) contributor. The TEDE of 0.0019 mrem is nearly 6 orders of magnitude less than the U.S. EPA's lower PAG of 1 rem (1000 mrem) (USEPA 1992).

### 3.3.2.8 Scenario 6: Fire Involving Dry Solid Waste

Dry solid waste generated from decontamination activities will include contaminated rags, wipes, and anticontamination clothing that are combustible. As discussed in Section 3.2, such dry solid waste material is categorized as Class A waste, with a total volume of 130 m<sup>3</sup> (4600 ft<sup>3</sup>) (see Table 3-3). Reactor decommissioning studies estimate that radionuclide concentrations of  $1.4 \times 10^{-3}$  Ci/m<sup>3</sup> of Co-60,  $2.8 \times 10^{-4}$  Ci/m<sup>3</sup> of Sr-90, and 0.35 Ci/m<sup>3</sup> of Cs-134 are representative of this material (Murphy 1978). Combustion of this type of material would release approximately 0.05% of the contamination (SAIC 1998). Thus, combustion of the entire inventory of this dry, solid waste would release  $9 \times 10^{-5}$  Ci of Co-60,  $1.8 \times 10^{-5}$  Ci of Sr-90, and 0.02 Ci of Cs-137. Because impacts of accidental releases are dominated by the external exposure pathway and the dose factor for external exposure for Cs-137 is less than that of Co-60, potential impacts of this fire-initiated scenario are bounded by those of Scenario 1 in Section 3.3.2.3. The TEDE for this fire accident is much less than U.S. EPA's PAG of 1 rem (1000 mrem) (USEPA 1992).

### 3.3.3 Evaluation of Worker Exposure from Accident Scenarios

The accident scenario that would have the greatest potential release during decommissioning is Scenario 1 (Section 3.3.2.3), reactor tank dismantling operations. This accident could result in 0.015 Ci of Co-60 becoming airborne, along with smaller quantities of Fe-55 and Ni-63. As described in Section 3.3.2.3, cutting the reactor tank would likely be performed by remotely operated equipment. The engineering details of the remote cutting operation have not been finalized, but it is assumed that if radioactive material was released during cutting operations, it would bypass workers controlling the cutting operations. Therefore, it is unlikely that accidents in the reactor tank would affect workers. Conservatively, in case the remote cutting arrangement does not protect the worker from exposure, it was assumed that a worker inhales a fraction

(i.e.,  $1 \times 10^{-6}$  [one millionth]), of the radioactive material released following the cutting accident (Brodsky 1980). If 0.015 Ci of Co-60 becomes airborne, the worker would inhale  $1.5 \times 10^{-8}$  Ci. Using the dose conversion factor,  $D_i$ , for Co-60 of  $2.19 \times 10^8$  mrem/Ci, the dose to the worker would be  $(1.5 \times 10^{-8} \text{ Ci}) (2.19 \times 10^8 \text{ mrem/Ci}) = 3.3$  mrem. This dose is 3 orders of magnitude below 5 rem (5000 mrem) (NRC 1991), the allowable annual exposure for workers.

The accidents discussed in Sections 3.3.2.3 through 3.3.2.8 would result in even less severe consequences than the 3.3 mrem calculated above. Therefore, it is unlikely that an accident could occur where a worker would accumulate a significant fraction of the 5-rem annual exposure limit. As described in Section 3.1.2 the radiation protection program will include worker protection and approved work control permits and procedures.

### **3.3.4 Conclusions**

The accident analysis shows that the postulated accident scenarios would result in TEDEs to a member of the public at the site boundary that are much less than the U.S. EPA's lower PAG of 1 rem (1000 mrem) (USEPA 1992). Also, doses that workers could receive from an accident are much less than the allowable annual exposure for workers, 5 rem (5000 mrem) (NRC 1991).

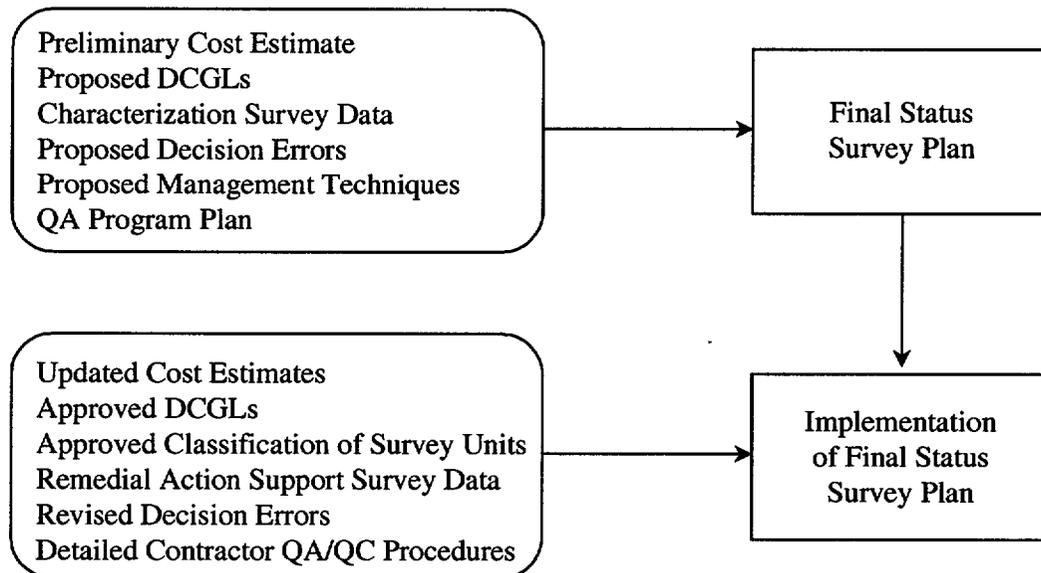
The results of the accident analysis show that offsite consequences from accidents are well below the U.S. EPA's PAGs; therefore, offsite emergency plans are not needed.

Also, as stated in Section 3.3.2.1, the accident analysis did not take credit for protective features (e.g., presence of building structures and filters). However, because the accident analysis shows that predicted offsite consequences to a member of the public are small, there is no need to develop technical specifications for filter performance.

#### 4. PROPOSED FINAL STATUS SURVEY PLAN

This section describes the final status survey plan for the PBRF. The survey plan has been developed according to the guidance in Draft Regulatory Guide DG-4006, "Demonstrating Compliance with the Radiological Criteria for License Termination" (NRC 1998a); NUREG-1575, "Multi-Agency Radiation Survey and Site Investigation Manual (MARSSIM)" (USEPA et al. 1997); and NUREG-1505, "A Nonparametric Statistical Methodology for the Design and Analysis of Final Status Decommissioning Surveys" (Gogolak et al. 1998). Consistent with this guidance, the final status survey plan has been designed incorporating the Data Quality Objectives (DQO) process. This process is iterative because it is applied from a current base of information and developed as information is revised or collected. Applying the DQO process ensures that the type and quality of radiological data needed to support license termination are considered early in the decommissioning process. Section 4.1 describes the final status survey design and the DQO process and identifies criteria and methods that will be used to support the decision on terminating the license and releasing the PBRF site for unrestricted use. Section 4.2 briefly discusses how the final status survey plan will be documented.

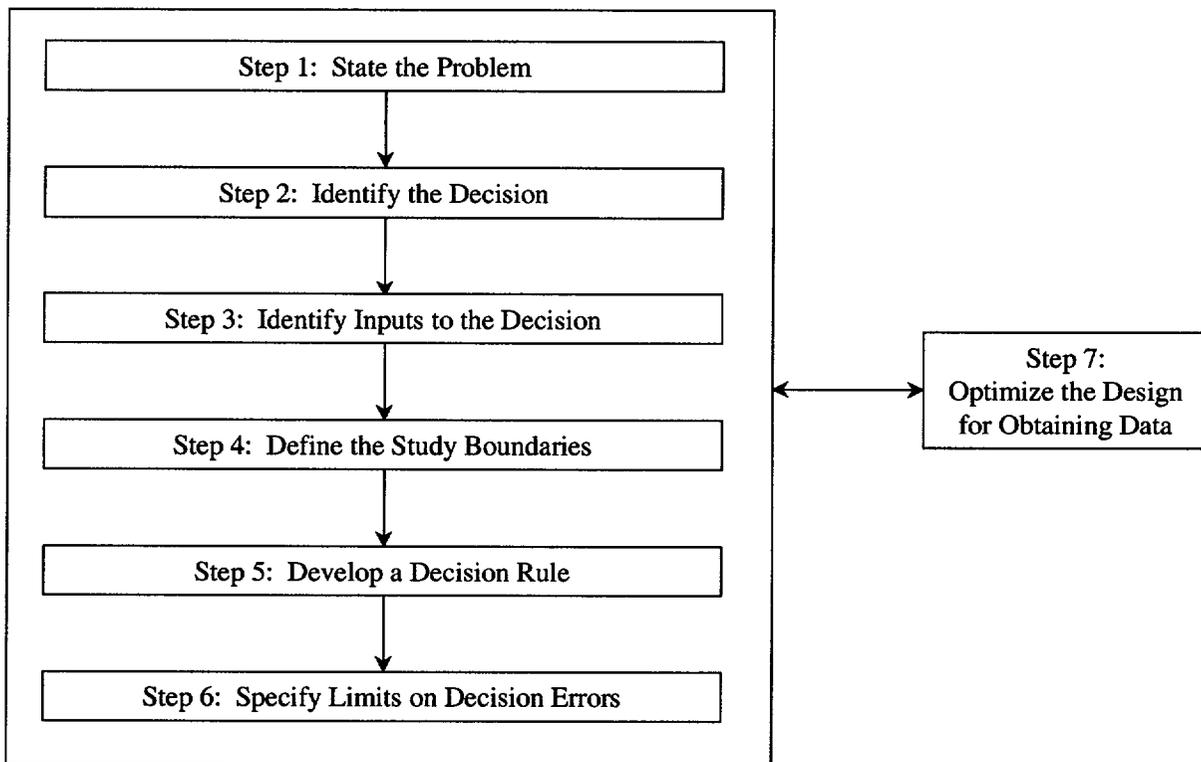
Because of the iterative DQO process, implementing the final status survey plan will incorporate additional information available during decommissioning. The final status survey plan will use remediation plans, decision errors, and statistical parameters that have not been subject to regulatory review, while implementing the plan will use approved cost and post-remediation statistical parameters. The information available for the final status survey plan presented in this section, as well as the additional information expected to be available to implement the final plan, is illustrated in Figure 4-1.



**Figure 4-1. Evolution of the Final Status Survey Plan**

## 4.1 The Data Quality Objectives Process

The DQO process is a series of planning steps that have been defined by EPA (USEPA 1994) to ensure that the type, quantity, and quality of environmental data used in decision making are appropriate for the intended application. DQOs are qualitative and quantitative statements that clarify the study objective, define the most appropriate data to collect, determine the most appropriate conditions for collecting the data, and specify acceptable levels of decision errors that will be used to establish the quantity and quality of data needed to support the decision. The DQO process is iterative, so specifications may change as new information is obtained during the course of site remediation, until the final status survey is actually performed. The DQO process comprises the seven steps identified in Figure 4-2. These seven steps are discussed in Sections 4.1.1 through 4.1.7.



**Figure 4-2. The Data Quality Objectives Process**  
(adapted from Figure D.1 of NUREG-1575 [USEPA et al. 1997])

### 4.1.1 Step 1: Stating the Problem

The objective of decommissioning the PBRF is to reduce the residual radioactivity to a level that permits unrestricted release of the property and termination of the license. Data will be needed to support this objective to demonstrate that residual radioactivity remaining at the PBRF results in a dose less than the release criterion. This objective will be met by performing a final status survey in individual survey units. A separate decision will be made for each survey unit about whether the

release criterion has been met. The information currently available to describe the nature and extent of the contamination is described in Section 2.2 of this plan. However, additional information on the general location and extent of residual radioactivity and estimated concentration levels will be gained during the characterization steps of remediation. The NRC will make the final decision to terminate the license and release the PBRF. The NASA Decommissioning Project Manager will make the final decision about decommissioning activities and developing the final status survey plan. Stakeholders in the project include NRC, NASA, and local residents. NASA's organizational structure and responsibilities are discussed in Section 2.4 of this plan.

#### 4.1.2 Step 2: Identifying the Decision

The primary decommissioning criterion is that the TEDE to future occupants at the PBRF site from residual radioactivity that is distinguishable from background radiation must be less than 25 mrem/yr. In addition, analysis must demonstrate that levels of residual radioactivity are ALARA. The decision statement is:

##### **Has the decommissioning dose criterion been met in individual survey units?**

Dose assessment modeling will be used to translate the dose criterion into levels of residual contamination that are acceptable at each survey unit. These levels, termed DCGLs, were estimated for the PBRF using the methods, site-specific source terms, and site information described in Section 2.2.3.1 of this plan. DCGLs were derived for individual nuclides for residual contamination of surface soils, building surfaces, and subsurface structures. The numerical release criterion proposed for demonstrating that the dose criterion has been met will be that the sum-of-fractions of quotients of concentrations and DCGLs of contributing radionuclides shall be less than unity. If a survey unit fails to meet this numerical release criterion, the need for additional sampling or remediation will be evaluated.

The DCGLs assume that the level of residual radioactivity is uniformly distributed across the survey unit; they are designated  $DCGL_W^a$  in this plan. A nonparametric statistical test will be applied to the sampling data taken at distinct locations in the survey unit to determine whether this level meets the release criterion. The test will be based on the probabilities of rejecting a true null hypothesis (Type I error) and accepting a false null hypothesis (Type II error) established in the sixth step of the DQO process (Section 4.1.6).

In addition, a separate  $DCGL_{EMC}$  (the DCGL used for the elevated measurement comparison) will be calculated if it is assumed that residual radioactivity is concentrated in a much smaller area (i.e., in only a small percentage of the entire survey unit). The  $DCGL_{EMC}$  will be calculated for survey planning purposes and will trigger further investigation of a portion of the survey unit. Any measurement from the survey unit will be considered elevated if it exceeds the  $DCGL_{EMC}$ . However, the elevated measurement alone does not indicate that the survey unit fails to meet the release criterion, only that further investigation will be necessary to determine the actual extent and

---

<sup>a</sup> The "W" in  $DCGL_W$  stands for Wilcoxon Rank Sum test, which is the statistical test recommended in MARSSIM for demonstrating compliance when the contaminant is present in background. The Sign test recommended for demonstrating compliance when the contaminant is not present in background also uses the  $DCGL_W$ .

concentration level of the elevated area. This information may be used with further modeling to demonstrate that the release criterion has been met.

### **4.1.3 Step 3: Identifying Inputs to the Decision**

The purpose of Step 3 is to identify the information needed to resolve the decision statement identified in Step 2 and sources of this information. The primary inputs to the decision statement are the DCGLs and average radionuclide concentrations at each survey unit. This information will be developed using site and survey unit characteristics data, decision error magnitudes, and radionuclide concentration data. Sources of data are discussed in Sections 4.1.3.1 and 4.1.3.2.

#### ***4.1.3.1 Derived Concentration Guidelines***

DCGLs for individual radionuclides were developed using data on radiological and physical characteristics of the PBRF site for receptor scenarios that quantify modes and rates of exposure. Section 2.2 of this plan describes radiological and physical characteristics of the site, including radionuclides of concern, and Section 2.2.3.1 describes exposure scenarios and how DCGLs were calculated. DCGLs were developed for residual contamination of surface soils, building surfaces, and subsurface structures (Section 2.2.3.1). Direct measurements of residual contamination of surface soils and of abovegrade and belowgrade building surfaces will be compared with the DCGLs. For subsurface structures, measurements of surface and volumetric contamination levels will be volume averaged to calculate a concentration to demonstrate that building surface DCGLs are protective for all scenarios.

#### ***4.1.3.2 Measurement of Radionuclide Concentrations***

Radionuclide concentrations are a primary input to the decision rule. Measuring radionuclide concentrations involves delineating discrete survey units, identifying the nature and number of measurements, and selecting measurement techniques. Delineating survey areas is discussed in Step 4 of the DQO process (Section 4.1.4).

### **Nature and Number of Measurements**

The decision rule and the site physical and radiological characteristics will direct the nature of measurements taken. The decision rule described in Step 5 of the DQO process (Section 4.1.5) requires knowledge of individual radionuclide concentrations in volumes of soil and rubble and on surfaces of buildings and subsurface structures. In addition, the decision rule requires assessing the potential for elevated concentrations. Thus, types of samples will include volumes of soil and rubble, scrapings and smears of surfaces, and scans of surfaces.

The number of samples for each survey unit will be determined by balancing costs and decision errors using the error magnitudes specified in Step 6 of the DQO process (Section 4.1.6). The approach for calculating the number of samples will be the same as that recommended in Chapter 5 of the MARSSIM (USEPA et al. 1997). Before acceptable limits on decision errors and the number of measurements necessary to meet them can be established, an estimate of the expected variability of the measurement data will be necessary. Information from scoping,

characterization, and remedial action support surveys will be used in estimating the mean and standard deviation expected for residual radioactivity in a survey unit. A summary of data from the 1985 PBRF characterization survey and the 1998 PBRF confirmatory survey is presented in Section 2.2.2.2 of this plan. These data provide a basis for radiological classification of all structures, systems, and grounds at the PBRF, but they do not provide a basis for estimating the standard deviation for all survey units. An example of the method for estimating the number of final status survey samples for a survey unit has been developed using the limited radionuclide-specific measurements collected for the Emergency Retention Basin during the 1985 characterization survey. Concentrations of measured Co-60, Sr-90, and Cs-137 in soil are reported (Teledyne Isotopes 1987) for 9, 58, and 8 samples, respectively. The measurement standard deviation of the weighted sum, calculated using Equation (11-7) of NUREG-1505 (Gogolak et al. 1998), is large, producing a small relative shift and a large number of final status survey samples following Equation (5-2) of MARSSIM (USEPA et al 1997). Thus, data from remedial action support surveys will be combined with experience and scientific judgment to estimate the measurement variability. As more information is available during decommissioning, the measurement and statistical methods needed to meet release criteria will be refined.

A more representative example of applying sample estimation following remediation has been developed using the 1985 measurements of Sr-90 in the Emergency Retention Basin in isolation. Measured concentrations are reported (Teledyne Isotopes 1987) for 58 locations, one of which is an outlying point with a concentration 30 times the mean of the other 57 samples. If the outlying point is neglected (a situation that could reflect the post-remediation condition of the Emergency Retention Basin), the mean and standard deviation of the measurements are 2.3 and 3.4 pCi/g, respectively. The DCGL calculated for Sr-90 in surface soils is 30 pCi/g (see Section 2.2.3.1). Following the guidance in the MARSSIM (USEPA et al. 1997) and using a Lower Boundary of the Gray Region (LBGR) (see definition in Section 4.1.6.3) of two-thirds of the DCGL, yields a relative shift of 3.0. For Type I and II errors of magnitude 0.05 and 0.10, respectively (see Section 4.1.6), applying Equation (5-2) of the MARSSIM yields an estimate of approximately 15 samples for the Emergency Retention Basin. It is anticipated that this procedure will be applied for all survey units of the PBRF using remedial action support survey data.

## **Identification of Measurement Techniques**

Radionuclide-specific measurement techniques will be needed for both gamma- and beta-emitting radionuclides in surface soil and on building surfaces. The gamma-emitting radionuclides are projected to dominate the dose for the residential farmer scenario for surface soils and the building reuse scenario. The beta-emitting radionuclides are projected to dominate the dose for the residential farmer scenario applied to subsurface structures. A list of candidate measurements is presented in Table 4-1, and techniques used in the radionuclide-specific and scanning measurements are discussed below. Gas proportional detectors with alpha and beta probes also are considered appropriate for direct measurement of gross levels of activity on building surfaces.

**Table 4-1. Survey Instrumentation**

Measurement	Instrument Type
Scanning:	
• Alpha	• Gas proportional, Zn S(Ag) scintillation
• Beta	• Gas proportional, Geiger-Mueller
• Gamma	• NaI (TI) scintillation
Radionuclide-specific:	
• Beta	• Liquid scintillation
• Gamma	• ISOCS Ge solid state

### Scanning Measurements

Scanning will be performed to locate radiation anomalies that might indicate elevated areas of residual activity and that will require further investigation or action. Scanning will be performed using a gamma detector for surface soils and a beta detector for building surfaces. If the scanning results exceed an investigation level determined for the detector and survey parameters, further investigation will be performed using direct measurement or sampling. Scanning will be performed to provide 100% coverage for Class 1 areas and 10% to 100% coverage for Class 2 areas. Scanning will be performed as judged necessary for Class 3 areas (Class 1, 2, and 3 areas are defined in Section 4.1.4).

### Direct Field Measurements

Direct field measurements will be made at fixed locations using a portable *in situ* gamma spectrometer or a gas proportional detector. This will provide a quantitative measure of radioactivity present in surface soils and on building surfaces. Gamma spectrometry will allow direct measurement of all gamma-emitting radionuclides, including Cs-134, Cs-137, Co-60, Eu-152, and Eu-154. Other radionuclides that have been detected at the PBRF include H-3, Ni-59, Ni-63, and Sr-90. Although these other radionuclides do not have significant gamma radiations, their concentrations were inferred from the concentrations of the measured radionuclides based on established ratios in each survey unit. The established ratios will be confirmed through further sampling and laboratory analysis.

The probability sampling performed by field measurements will be systematic sampling on a systematic grid, with a random start for Class 1 and Class 2 areas and simple random sampling for Class 3 areas. It is anticipated that only these measurements will be used in conducting the nonparametric statistical test. However, results from scanning, direct field measurements, and laboratory analysis of samples may be used for elevated measurement comparison against an upper limit value.

### Sampling and Laboratory Analysis

Sampling and laboratory analysis will be required during the final status survey to confirm the established ratios for the non-gamma-emitting radionuclides, to further define the areal extent

of potential contamination, and to determine maximum radiation levels within an area. For surface soils and building surfaces, it is expected that ratios of non-gamma-emitting radionuclides to gamma-emitting radionuclides can be developed using field measurements. Probability sampling using locations chosen on a random or random start systematic grid basis will be limited to direct field measurements for these surfaces. For subsurface structures, probability sampling and laboratory analysis of beta-emitting radionuclides will be conducted. If it is determined through further characterization or confirmation sampling that any of the ratios are not constant, probability sampling will be employed for laboratory analysis of the non-gamma-emitting radionuclides.

## **Background Determination**

Radionuclides contaminating the PBRF site do not occur in significant natural background concentrations. Therefore, reference area measurements will not be compared to radionuclide-specific direct field measurements or laboratory analyses. Some comparison to background levels will be required for the scanning measurements and topographical considerations will be weighed for this background comparison.

### **4.1.4 Step 4: Defining Study Boundaries**

Defining spatial and temporal boundaries helps ensure the samples taken during the final status survey are representative of the survey unit. The spatial area under consideration for release is the entire PBRF. Because statistical methods will be used to define the number of samples taken and extent of surveys performed, it will be important to classify survey areas and to define their constituent survey units to minimize variability of concentrations. Furthermore, concentration levels of residual radioactivity before remediation will be used to define the type of statistical sampling and the extent of scanning coverage for each survey unit.

The survey areas are classified as either non-impacted areas or impacted areas. Non-impacted areas have no potential for residual contamination. Impacted areas are further divided into one of three classifications:

- ***Class 1 Areas***—Areas containing locations where, before remediation, the concentrations of residual radioactivity may have exceeded the DCGL<sub>w</sub>
- ***Class 2 Areas***—Areas containing no locations where, before remediation, the concentrations of residual radioactivity may have exceeded the DCGL<sub>w</sub>
- ***Class 3 Areas***—Areas with a low probability of containing any locations with residual radioactivity.

#### **4.1.4.1 Spatial Boundaries**

Section 2.2.2 of this plan describes the PBRF and its current radiological status. Because contaminated equipment and piping will be removed and disposed of, contamination levels on them will not be used to classify each facility. Although the abovegrade portions of the buildings and belowgrade portions of buildings within 1 m (3 ft) of the surface will be demolished after decontamination, the concrete rubble will be used as fill for the remaining belowgrade portions of

buildings and inground structures, such as the Hot Retention Area and Cold Retention Basins. Therefore, the contamination levels found on the floors and walls of the facilities before remediation will be used to classify subsurface structures. The facilities and grounds have been defined as separate survey areas and placed in the above classifications based on data from the 1985 and 1998 characterization surveys as shown in Table 4-2. The abovegrade portions of the Reactor Building (1111), the Hot Laboratory (1112), and the Fan House (Building 1132) have been classified as shown in Table 4-2. However, it is expected that the abovegrade portions of these buildings (and belowgrade portions within 1 m (3 ft) of the surface) will be demolished, size-reduced, and collapsed into the remaining belowgrade cavity of the buildings after completion and confirmation of the final status survey. Pending approval by regulatory authorities before demolition, the final status survey of the remaining belowgrade structures will be validated before backfilling these areas. As a conservative measure, outside areas not designated as impacted areas will be surveyed as Class 3 survey units.

#### ***4.1.4.2 Temporal Boundaries***

Some remedial action support and survey measurements of building surfaces will be made before demolition and backfilling to aid in design of the final status survey and further decontamination if necessary. This is especially true of belowgrade surfaces that will not be demolished. Also, further sampling of the concrete rubble fill may be performed after demolition but before a cap is placed on the fill areas. Likewise, environmental media (e.g., soil, and water) will be sampled in the remedial action survey to aid in design of the final status survey and further decontamination if necessary.

#### ***4.1.4.3 Reference Coordinates***

Reference coordinate systems will be established at the PBRF site to select and relocate measurement and sampling locations. A diagram showing each survey unit will be prepared.

#### ***4.1.4.4 Sampling Grids***

Sampling locations in Class 1 and Class 2 survey units will be placed on random start systematic grids. These grids will be used as the sampling locations for the direct field measurements. However, if it is determined through further characterization or confirmation sampling that any of the ratios are not constant, probability sampling will be employed for laboratory analysis of the non-gamma-emitting radionuclides. An equilateral triangular will be used, with the distance between the sample points,  $L$ , determined by the number of samples or measurements that will be taken for the survey unit as dictated by statistical test requirements.

### **4.1.5 Step 5: Developing a Decision Rule**

A decision rule relates the concentration of residual radioactivity in the survey unit to the release criterion so that decisions can be made based on the results of the final status survey. The decision rule proposed in this final status survey plan consists of a statistical test and an elevated measurement comparison. Because radionuclide-specific measurements will be made and the

**Table 4-2. Area Classification**

<b>Facility or Area within PBRF Fence</b>	<b>MARSSIM<sup>a</sup> Classification</b>
Reactor Building (1111):	
• Inside containment vessel	Class 1
• Outside containment vessel	Class 2
• Canals	Class 1
Hot Laboratory (1112):	
• Cold work area floors, walls, and ceiling	Class 2
• Hot Work Area floor	Class 1
• Hot Work Area walls and ceiling	Class 2
• Decon Room floors and walls	Class 1
• Decon Room ceiling	Class 2
• Repair Shop floors and walls	Class 1
• Repair Shop ceiling	Class 2
• Storage room floors, walls, and ceiling	Class 2
• Mezzanine floors	Class 1
• Mezzanine walls and ceiling	Class 2
• Hot handling floors and walls	Class 1
• Hot handling ceiling	Class 2
• Hot pipe tunnel	Class 1
• Canals	Class 1
Fan House (1132):	
• First floor floors	Class 1
• First floor walls and ceiling	Class 2
• Basement floors, walls, and ceiling	Class 1
Waste Handling Building (1133):	
• First floor floors	Class 1
• First floor walls (white)	Class 2
• First floor walls (controlled)	Class 1
• First floor ceilings	Class 2
• Basement floors, walls, and ceiling	Class 1
Primary Pump House (1134) floors walls and ceilings	Class 2
Reactor Office and Laboratory Building (1141) all areas (exclusive of lab hoods and hood filter housings)	Class 2
Water Effluent Monitoring Station (1192) all areas	Class 2
Cold Retention Basins (1154)	Class 1
Hot Retention Area (1155)	Class 1
Emergency Retention Basin	Class 1
Drainage System	Class 1
Pentolite Ditch	Class 1
Areas of past spills	Class 1
Cold pipe tunnel	Class 3
Reactor sludge basins (1153)	Class 3
Reactor precipitator (1157)	Class 3
Reactor Service Equipment Building (1131)	Non-Impacted
Reactor Gas Services Building (1135)	Non-Impacted
Reactor Water Tower (1151)	Non-Impacted
Reactor Substation (1161)	Non-Impacted
Reactor Security Building (1191)	Non-Impacted
Reactor Compressor Building (1136)	Non-Impacted
Reactor Cryogenic and Gas Supply Farm and Building (1195 & 9837)	Non-Impacted
Reactor Gas Storage Structure (1196)	Non-Impacted

a. USEPA et al. (1997).

radionuclides are not present in background at significant levels, if all of the measurements are below the  $DCGL_W$ , the survey unit will meet the release criterion. However, if the average of the measurements is above the  $DCGL_W$ , the survey unit will not meet the release criterion. When the average is below the  $DCGL_W$  and some of the measurements are above the  $DCGL_W$ , a Sign test and the elevated measurement comparison will be used to determine if the release criterion has been met. Sections 4.1.5.1 and 4.1.5.2 define the parameters that will be used with the methods presented in NUREG-1575 (MARSSIM) (USEPA et al. 1997) and NUREG-1505 (Gogolak et al. 1998) for determining the number of samples (direct field measurements) that will be necessary for the statistical test to be valid.

#### ***4.1.5.1 The Statistical Test***

The sign test for statistical analysis does not use background radiation level data. Therefore, statistical tests will only be performed on direct field measurements for radionuclides that are not present at significant background levels. Also, because it is expected that the variability in the data will be small relative to the  $DCGL_W$ , the following hypotheses have been chosen for the statistical test:

The null hypothesis,  $H_0$  = the survey unit does not meet the release criterion.  
The alternative hypothesis,  $H_a$  = the survey unit meets the release criterion.

Although the null hypothesis may require additional remediation when it is not strictly necessary, this is acceptable for the following reasons: (1) the contamination below the  $DCGL_W$  is expected to be measurable, (2) additional remediation may still have some benefit in the form of reduced radiation exposure, and (3) additional remediation is preferable to releasing a survey unit that really should be remediated further.

#### ***4.1.5.2 Elevated Measurement Comparison***

The decision rule for the elevated measurement comparison will be a two-stage process. In the first stage, areas will be flagged as potentially elevated at the specified investigation levels. Investigation levels will be established in consultation with NRC staff (USEPA et al. 1997). In the second stage, the actual average concentration over the actual extent of elevated area will be compared to the release criterion. The level at which measurements should be flagged will depend on the unit classification. For Class 1 survey units, areas will be flagged if the direct measurement or scanning measurement indicates concentrations above the  $DCGL_{EMC}$ . For Class 2 survey units, areas will be flagged if the direct field measurement or scanning measurement indicates concentrations above the  $DCGL_W$ . For Class 3 survey units, areas will be flagged if the direct measurement indicates concentrations above one-half of the  $DCGL_W$  or the scanning measurement indicates concentrations above the minimum detectable concentrations.

## **4.1.6 Step 6: Specifying Limits on Decision Errors**

### ***4.1.6.1 Measurement Technique Detection Capabilities***

Based on draft NUREG-1507 (Abelquist et al. 1997), it is expected that concentrations of 6.4 pCi/g of Cs-137 and 3.4 pCi/g of Co-60 will be detected with 95 percent confidence by scanning measurements made with a 5-cm x 5-cm (2-in. x 2-in.) NaI Detector on land areas with typical background levels. Based on the same information source, it is also expected that concentrations of approximately 0.05 pCi/g will be detected with 95 percent confidence for Co-60, Cs-137, and Eu-152 by direct field measurements made with a typical 25 percent relative efficiency p-type germanium detector and a 10-minute count time at typical background levels. These minimum detectable concentrations are only a fraction of the DCGL. Therefore, the measurement variability will be expected to be small at the DCGL. Minimum detectable concentrations of gross alpha and gross beta contamination on building surfaces are expected to be approximately 50 and 1000 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup>, respectively. These levels also are fractions of the DCGLs.

### ***4.1.6.2 Type I and Type II Errors***

A Type I error is made when the null hypothesis,  $H_0$ , is rejected when it is true. A Type II error is made when the null hypothesis is not rejected when it is false. The error rates are expressed as the probability that a survey unit passes when it should fail ( $\alpha$  for this scenario) or fails when it should pass ( $\beta$  for this scenario). Because the measurement variability is expected to be small at the DCGL, the  $\alpha$  for this project has initially been chosen to be 0.05, or 5 percent, probability. The  $\beta$  for this project initially has been chosen to be 0.10, or 10 percent, probability.

### ***4.1.6.3 The Gray Region***

A LBGR also will need to be selected to apply the statistical test. The LBGR is the concentration level below which further remediation is not reasonably achievable. The statistical test uses the LBGR to define the level that above which false positive rates greater than that specified by the limits on decision errors are accepted. The LBGR is limited by the variability exhibited by the measurements and the decision errors chosen. Because the detection limits expected to be achieved by the direct field measurements are low relative to the  $DCGL_w$ , it is estimated that an LBGR equal to one-half of the  $DCGL_w$  can be achieved for the PBRF decommissioning project. The concentration range between the LBGR and the DCGL defines the gray region of residual radioactivity concentrations in which the consequences of decision errors are relatively minor.

## **4.1.7 Step 7: Optimizing the Design**

The DQO process is neither static nor sequential. New information will be gathered during remediation that will be incorporated into the planning process. The final status survey will be optimized by examining all of the factors that affect the decision errors and sample sizes so that costs and potential risks are balanced. This may include further evaluating the  $DCGL_w$ , the  $DCGL_{EMC}$ , and the measurement standard deviation. The estimate of the measurement standard

deviation will include both the uncertainty in the measurement process and any anticipated spatial and temporal concentration variations.

#### **4.2 Documentation of the Final Status Survey Plan**

The final status survey plan will be documented in a report that summarizes PBRF operations, site characterization data, remediation activities, and all elements of the DQO process. The description of PBRF operations, site characteristics, and remediation will provide perspective and allow the report to function as a stand-alone document. The report will include a description of QA and QC procedures for all elements of the process. The primary focus of the report will be describing the decision process followed to evaluate each survey unit. Detail will be sufficient to recreate the decision in the future.

## **5. TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS**

The current Technical Specifications will be adhered to during the decontamination and decommissioning activities. NASA may chose to revise the Technical Specifications as part of a separate licensing action prior to or during the Decommissioning Plan approval process or during decommissioning. However, NASA will comply with only NRC-approved Technical Specifications.

## 6. PHYSICAL SECURITY PLAN

This section describes the physical security provisions that will be in place during decommissioning of the PBRF. All nuclear fuel has been removed from the PBRF and shipped off site. Therefore, there is no requirement for safeguarding special nuclear material. During decommissioning, industrial security will be provided. Security provisions will provide access control for protection from radiation and industrial hazards and protect capital assets.

During decommissioning activities, access to the PBRF will be controlled by physical barriers and security personnel. The PBRF is located within the PBS site boundaries. Access to the PBRF will be controlled by means of two fences with locked gates. The outer fence surrounds the PBS with entry controlled through a single entry control point, which is staffed by armed guards 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Access to keys for the PBS gate is controlled by the PBS Management Office. The inner fence surrounds the PBRF. Access to keys for the PBRF gates is controlled by the Plum Brook Safety Officer and is limited to personnel authorized by the PBRF Reactor Manager.

Vehicles and heavy equipment will be admitted to the PBRF only with proper authorization. The vehicle entry gate at the PBRF will be under visual surveillance by security personnel located in the PBRF entry control point adjacent to the gate.

Entry will be controlled by security personnel during decontamination and decommissioning operations. Identification badges will be issued to workers permitting site access after they complete the required training. During non-working hours, the PBRF fenced area gates and all PBRF buildings will be locked. Security personnel will conduct routine inspections of PBRF areas during non-working hours.

## 7. EMERGENCY PLAN

This section reviews the PBRF licensing history with respect to emergency plans and provides information that supports the conclusion that developing an emergency plan to support decommissioning activities is not required.

The PBRF has been in a standby mode for over 25 years. The facility was shut down in 1973 and the reactor fuel assemblies, all special nuclear material, and source material were removed; the fuel assemblies were transferred off site and much of the facility was decontaminated (NASA 1980b). An emergency plan was not prepared to support NRC-authorized demolition in 1981 (NRC 1981b) nor to support the change in the license status to a possession-not-operate status in 1987 (Dosa 1987). The NRC license was renewed in 1998 with no formalized emergency plan. Technical specifications, issued as part of the 1998 license renewal, require emergency procedures for emergencies arising from fire, floods, and tornadoes and procedure approval by the PBRF Safety Committee (Mendonca 1998).

Section 3.3 of this plan presents a conservative accident analysis that shows offsite impacts are much less than either the 1 rem whole body dose or the 5 rem thyroid dose identified in the U.S. EPA Protective Action Guidelines (USEPA 1992). The doses calculated from the accident analysis are also less than the 15 mrem whole body dose identified as the lowest action level in Table 1 of ANSI/ANS 15.16-1982, "Emergency Planning for Research Reactors." The offsite doses for the accident analysis are low for two reasons. First, the radionuclide inventory at PBRF is limited because the fuel has been removed and much of the facility has been decontaminated. Second, the operations associated with decontamination and decommissioning (localized cutting and decontamination of surfaces) are not the type that would result in large releases of material into the atmosphere. Therefore, an emergency plan to support decommissioning activities is not required.

Emergency procedures currently in place at the PBRF will be revised, as appropriate, to accommodate emergencies that could occur during decommissioning operations.

## 8. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

### 8.1 Purpose and Need for Action

The NASA PBRF was shut down in 1973. NASA currently has a “posses but do not operate” license for the facility, and has decided to decontaminate the facility to levels that would allow unrestricted release of the PBRF and termination of the license.

### 8.2 Facility Description

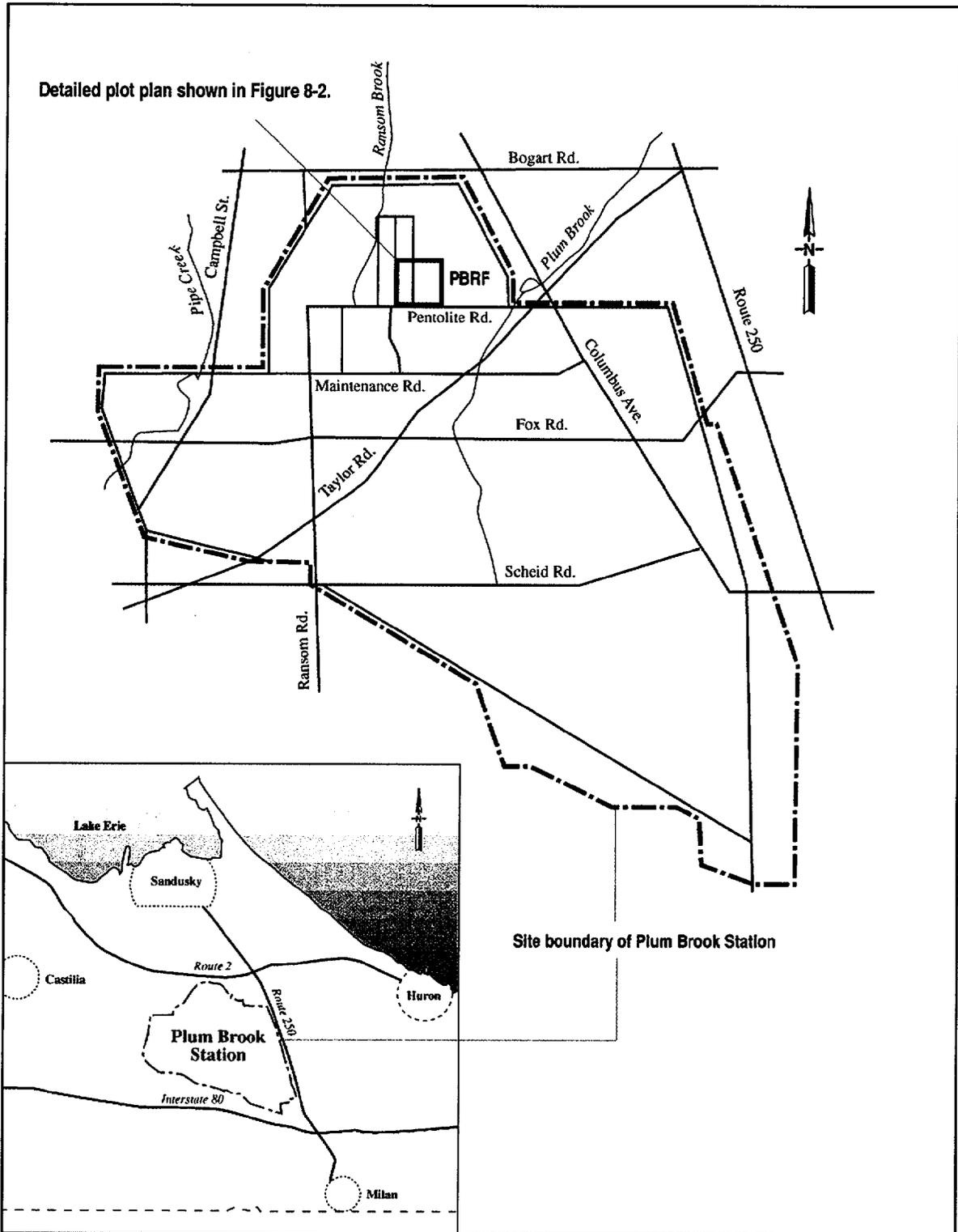
The Plum Brook Station site, which includes the PBRF, is 2614 hectares (6454 acres) in size (NASA 1997). The site is located in a rural area in west central Erie County, Ohio, approximately 6 km (4 mi) south of Sandusky. The major roads near the site are Route 2 to the north, Route 250 to the east, and Interstate 80 to the south (Figure 8-1).

Most of the Plum Brook Station site is in Perkins and Oxford Townships, with some land in Huron and Milan Townships to the east. The site boundaries are Bogart Road to the north, Mason Road to the south, U.S. Highway 250 to the east, and County Road 43 to the west.

The Plum Brook Station includes five major testing facilities: the inactive PBRF and four space testing facilities. Table 8-1 describes the testing facilities.

Figure 8-2 shows the specific buildings and facilities associated with the PBRF. The specific buildings and facilities of PBRF are described in more detail in Section 1.2 of the PBRF decommissioning plan. Radiological contamination of these facilities is primarily inside equipment and waste storage locations. There is limited contamination outside the buildings in the areas of former spills and water handling systems. The dominant radionuclides are H-3, Co-60, Cs-137, and Sr-90. A summary of the radiological contamination in these facilities and the immediate environment is presented in Section 2.2.2 of the PBRF decommissioning plan. In addition to the radiological contaminants, friable lead paint and asbestos or asbestos/fiberglass insulation will have to be managed during decontamination and decommissioning. This is also addressed in the PBRF decommissioning plan.

The Plum Brook Station includes other facilities. The Engineering Building (Building 7141) provides office space and ninety-nine storage bunkers in the southeast (originally used for storing munitions) are now used for warehousing and storing records and chemical supplies. The Ohio Air National Guard stores munitions in one bunker. Two raw water pumping stations are located offsite and supply water for fire protection and cooling equipment. There is also a small airstrip, as well as buildings for mechanical and process equipment, shipping and receiving areas, substations, and cooling towers.

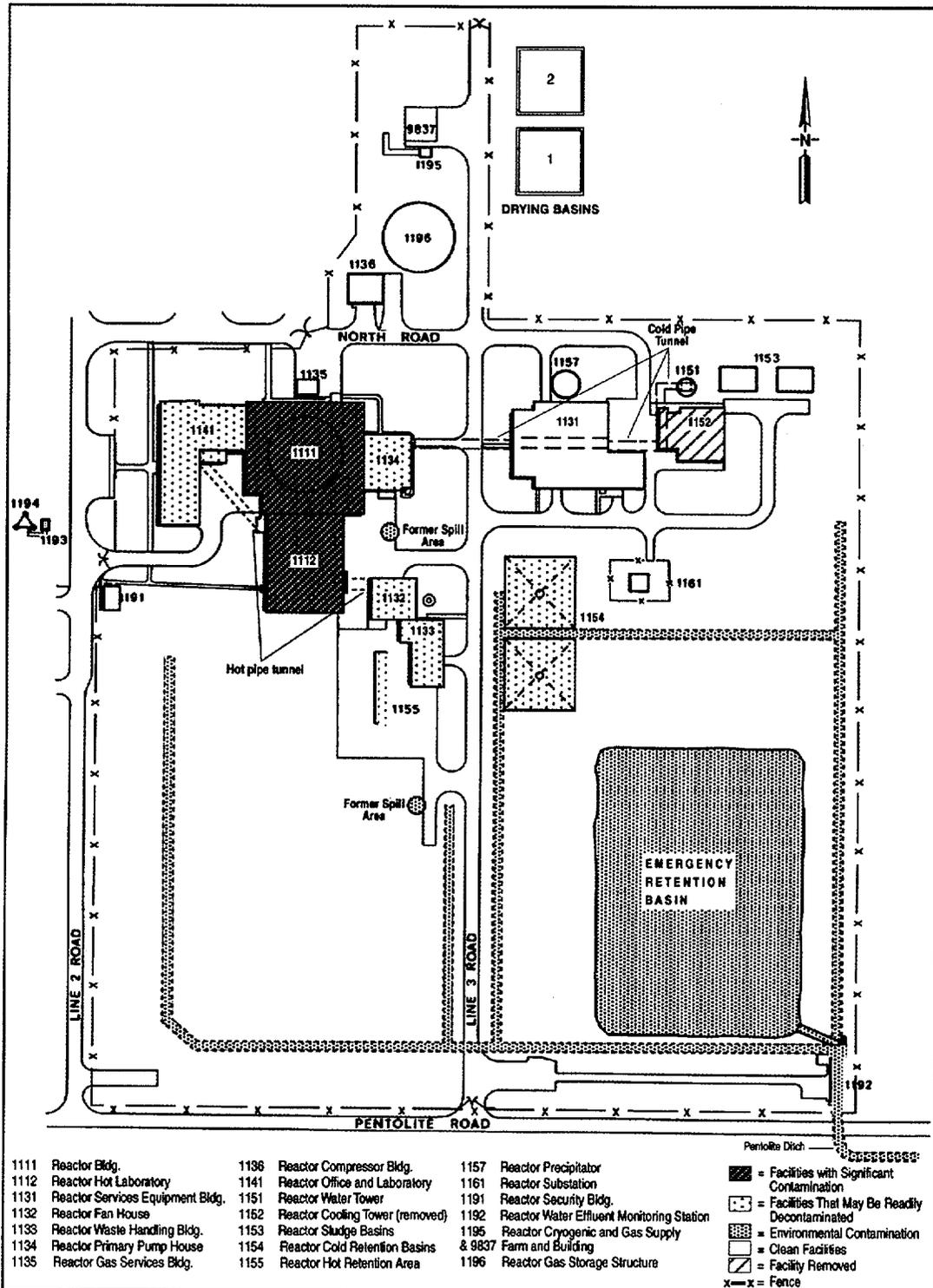


1480D-1

**Figure 8-1. Location of the Plum Brook Reactor Facility at Plum Brook Station (modified from NASA 1980a)**

**Table 8-1. Plum Brook Station Testing Facilities**

Facility	Description
Plum Brook Reactor Facility	Facility includes a 60 MW test reactor, a 100 kW mockup reactor, and a hot laboratory that was used for examination of irradiated material. The reactor and lab facilities were supported by liquid waste management systems, fan house, waste handling building, and office space and analytical laboratories.
Space Power Facility	Facility for testing space power generation and propulsion systems and space hardware under simulated conditions. The aluminum test chamber measures 30 m (100 ft) in diameter and 37 m (122 ft) high with a volume of 23,000 m <sup>3</sup> (800,000 ft <sup>3</sup> ) and is enclosed by concrete.
Spacecraft Propulsion Research Facility	Chamber for research, development, and validation testing of spacecraft and space propulsion systems that can perform full-mission profile simulation testing for large upper stage rocket engines and complete launch vehicles. Vacuum, cryogenic background temperatures, and solar heating conditions found in near-earth orbit can be simulated.
Cryogenic Propellant Tank Research Facility	Tests rocket propellant tank systems, including cryogenic fluid slush tests, tank fill and expulsion tests, and performance testing of tank insulation systems. The 7.6-m (25-ft) diameter test chamber has a volume of 269 m <sup>3</sup> (9500 ft <sup>3</sup> ). Propellants types tested there include liquid hydrogen, liquid nitrogen, gaseous hydrogen, gaseous nitrogen, and gaseous helium. Used intermittently for densified hydrogen research programs for advanced engine development.
Hypersonic Tunnel Facility	Used to support the development of air-breathing engines for use in hypersonic aircraft. The aero-thermodynamics of the flight environment is simulated. Propulsion systems and components with synthetic air speeds up to Mach 7 (approximately 8700 kph [5400 mph]) can be tested. Approximately 20,000 m <sup>3</sup> (700,000 ft <sup>3</sup> ) of gaseous nitrogen and a smaller quantity of gaseous oxygen are stored for use in creating the desired atmospheric test conditions.



1480D-1-2

Figure 8-2. Plot Plan of Plum Brook Reactor Facility (modified from NASA 1980b)

### **8.3 Proposed Action and Alternatives**

The proposed action and the alternatives for PBRF decommissioning are as follows:

- Proposed Action (DECON)—Decontamination and decommissioning of the PBRF followed by the release of the site for unrestricted use by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).
- Alternative 1 (SAFSTOR)—In safe storage, the PBRF would continue to be maintained in a condition that allows it to be safely stored and subsequently decontaminated to a level permitting release of the property by the NRC.
- Alternative 2 (ENTOMB)—In entombment, radioactive materials would be encased in a structurally long-lived material such as concrete. The entombed structure would be appropriately maintained and surveillance would continue until the radioactivity decayed to a level permitting release of the property by the NRC.

Implementation of the proposed action would involve performing the following major tasks:

- Removing contaminated equipment, components, and systems
- Removing contaminated material and soil
- Decontaminating buildings and structures
- Demolishing structures to an elevation 1 m (3 ft) belowgrade
- Backfilling belowgrade portions of buildings with clean soil and/or concrete and masonry rubble.

While the decontamination work is in process, remedial action status surveys would be conducted to ensure that the contamination has been removed to the limits required. Final status surveys would also be conducted. Further details on the actions that would be taken to implement the Proposed Action (DECON) are presented in Section 2.3 of the PBRF decommissioning plan.

### **8.4 Description of the Affected Environment**

#### **8.4.1 Topography, Geology, Soils, and Seismicity**

##### **8.4.1.1 Topography**

Plum Brook Station is situated in the Ohio Lake Plain physiographic region. The topography at Plum Brook Station is relatively flat and slopes gently northward toward Lake Erie. The average slope of the land is less than 6%. Elevations range from about 191 to 207 m (625 to 680 ft) above sea level. The elevation at the PBRF is about 191 m (625 ft) above sea level (SAIC 1991).

#### **8.4.1.2 Geology**

Bedrock formations underlying the site consist of carbonates and clastics (sandstones and shales) of Devonian age: Columbus Limestone, Delaware Limestone, Plum Brook Shale/Prout Limestone, and Ohio Shale. The depth to bedrock varies from 0.7 to 7.6 m (2 to 25 ft) across the site and outcrops at certain locations on the site. The depth to bedrock is about 7.6 m (25 ft) in the vicinity of the Reactor Building, where soils have filled in a bedrock low in that area (IT 1999).

#### **8.4.1.3 Soils**

Two soil associations occur at the site. The Arkport-Galen association occurs in the northern and western areas of the site, including the area of the PBRF, and the Prout association occurs in the southern and eastern areas. Soils are highly variable in thickness and permeability.

The Arkport-Galen association is characterized by deep, nearly level to moderately sloping, well-drained to moderately well-drained soils that have a subsoil of loamy fine sand and fine sand and occur on sand hills and ridges (SAIC 1991). The Arkport soils are gently to moderately sloping and well drained. The Galen soils are nearly level and moderately well drained. The minor soils occur in level to depressional areas and in the flat areas between the sand hills and ridges. The minor soil associations are either very poorly or somewhat poorly drained.

The Prout association has moderately deep to deep, nearly level to gently sloping, somewhat poorly drained soils that have a subsoil of heavy silt loam to silty clay loam. This association occurs on uplands, such as the sides of stream valleys, shale outcrop ridges, along drainage ways, and in some steeper areas. The Prout soils are nearly level to gently sloping, dark colored, and somewhat poorly drained. These soils are underlain by shale bedrock at a depth ranging from 51 to 102 cm (20 to 40 in.) for the Prout soils and 102 to 152 cm (40 to 60 in.) for deep variant Prout soils. The minor soils in this association include a broad spectrum from nearly level to depressional and very poorly drained to nearly level to gently sloping and well drained (SAIC 1991).

#### **8.4.1.4 Seismicity**

Occasional earthquakes in Ohio appear to be associated with ancient zones of weakness in the Earth's crust. The historic record suggests a risk of moderately damaging earthquakes in the western, northeastern, and southeastern parts of the state. The Plum Brook Station site is located in Seismic Zone 1 according to the 1990 Ohio Building Code.

### **8.4.2 Climate and Air Quality**

The climate at the Plum Brook Station is continental in character and influenced by its proximity to Lake Erie. Summers are moderately warm and humid, with temperatures occasionally exceeding 32°C (90°F). Winters are cold and cloudy, with temperatures falling below -18°C (0°F) an average of 5 days per year. Annual temperature extremes typically occur after late June and in December. The first frost typically occurs in October (NASA 1997). The predominant wind direction is southwest throughout the year. In spring and summer, northerly and northeasterly breezes also blow from the lake (NASA 1997). Average annual precipitation at the Plum Brook

Station is 86 cm (34 in.) (1951–1980 data). The 2-year, 24-hour rain event is 6.2 cm (2.45 in.). Average annual water loss is estimated at 57 cm (22.5 in.) (NASA 1997).

Plum Brook Station is located in Erie County, which is in attainment for all National Ambient Air Quality Standards. The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) maintains a monitoring station in Erie County for total suspended particulate levels. The site is not classified as a major emission source under the Clean Air Act Title V permitting program.

Emission sources in the surrounding area include the Ford Motor Company in Sandusky and some large coal-fired institutional boilers (NASA 1997).

### **8.4.3 Hydrology**

#### **8.4.3.1 Groundwater**

Two principal bedrock aquifers underlie the site (Morrison Knudsen 1994). A fractured limestone aquifer occurs in the western portion of Erie County, and groundwater flow is to the north. A fine-grained shale aquifer to the east has low yields, and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) has delineated three groundwater zones based on well yield. The PBRF is located in an area where wells with a capacity of 19 to 95 L (5 to 25 gal) per minute can be developed (NASA 1997).

One hundred seventy-nine private drinking water wells are located within a 6-km (4-mi) radius of Plum Brook Station based on a record search of the Erie County Health Department (Morrison Knudsen 1994). No downgradient groundwater wells are known to be used for industrial or agricultural purposes. The closest recorded downgradient well for the entire Plum Brook Station is at 6115 Schenk Road, but this is crossgradient from the PBRF. The 1991 survey of permitted wells did not identify any well downgradient of the PBRF (SAIC 1991).

#### **8.4.3.2 Surface Water**

Plum Brook Station is located in the Lake Erie watershed. The Huron River and its branches constitute the major surface water system. Eleven streams cross the site, the largest of which are Pipe Creek, Kuebler Ditch, Ransom Brook, and Plum Brook. Streams generally flow northward and converge into Ransom Brook, Storrs Ditch, Plum Brook, and Sawmill Creek and eventually flow north into Lake Erie. Seventeen isolated ponds and reservoirs are located on the site (NASA 1997).

The largest surface water body near Plum Brook Station is Sandusky Bay on Lake Erie, approximately 6 km (4 mi) to the north. The lake is an important fresh water fishery with a combined commercial and sport fishery catch estimated to exceed 20 million fish. Most commercial fishing takes place near Sandusky Bay. Lake Erie is also used for recreational purposes.

#### 8.4.4 Biologic Resources

Plum Brook Station is part of a regional ecosystem encompassing Sandusky, parts of Lake Erie, and several Lake Erie islands. Several natural areas are found in the general vicinity. The Milan State Wildlife Area is located approximately 5 km (3 mi) to the south. The Erie Sand Barrens State Nature Preserve is approximately 305 m (1000 ft) to the south. The Sheldon Marsh State Nature Preserve is approximately 6 km (4 mi) to the northwest, and the Resthaven Wildlife Area is approximately 10 km (6 mi) to the northwest. Another local natural area is Old Woman Creek, a National Estuarine Research Reserve and State Nature Preserve, which is east of the city of Huron (NASA 1997).

##### 8.4.4.1 Vegetation

Plum Brook Station contains significant areas of grassland, bushland, and woodland. A biological survey conducted in 1994 determined that no significant plant communities were located at Plum Brook Station. About 330 vascular plant species were collected or observed during the 1994 survey, and , of these, 251 species are considered indigenous to the area. Areas of greatest plant diversity are in the central and southern portion of Plum Brook Station and not near PBRF (NASA 1997). Open burning is conducted annually for weed control and to assist in establishing field grasses.

##### 8.4.4.2 Wildlife

Wildlife at the site includes white tailed deer, raccoons, woodchucks, moles, starlings, pigeons, coyotes, hawks, Canada geese, and turkey vultures. Periodic controlled deer hunting occurs to manage wildlife populations and to control overgrazing. A total of 116 bird species has been identified at the site (NASA 1997). Of these, 92 species were either confirmed or likely nesters. Five species were considered to be late migrants and nine species visitors only. Common birds at Plum Brook Station include the American robin, song sparrow, field sparrow, indigo bunting, common yellowthroat, blue jay, and house wren. Nineteen reptile and 13 fish species have been identified. All of the fish species are common State-wide and tolerant of water quality and habitat degradation except for the brook stickleback.

The biological survey identified one Federally listed species, the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), and three State-listed endangered, four threatened, six potentially threatened, and three species of special concern. These are summarized in Table 8-2. Other rare bird species identified at Plum Brook Station include the Cooper's hawk, Alder flycatcher, Least flycatcher, Marsh wren, Brewster's warbler, Black-throated green warbler, and Henslow's sparrow.

The Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) is a Federally listed endangered species that has been reported in Erie County. Other State protected species reported in the County include the western banded killifish (*Fundulus diaphanous menona*), least bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*), eastern pondmussel (*Ligumia nasuta*), and the common tern (*Sterna hirundo*) (NASA 1997).

**Table 8-2. Special Status Animals and Plants Residing at the Plum Brook Station**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Common Name</b>
Endangered	<i>Hypericum gymnanthum</i>	Least St. John's-wort
	<i>Cistothorus platensis</i>	Sedge wren
	<i>Carex cephaloidea</i>	Thin-leaf sedge
Threatened	<i>Arenaria laterifolia</i>	Grove sandwort
	<i>Carex conoidea</i>	Field sedge
	<i>Helianthus mollis</i>	Ashy sunflower
	<i>Bartramia longicauda</i>	Upland sandpiper
Potentially threatened (plants)	<i>Baptisia lactea</i>	Prairie false indigo
	<i>Carex alata</i>	Broad-winged sedge
	<i>Gratiola virginiana</i>	Round-fruited hedge-hyssop
	<i>Hypericum majus</i>	Tall St. John's-wort
	<i>Rhexia virginiana</i>	Virginia meadow-beauty
	<i>Viola lanceolata</i>	Lance-leaved violet
Special concern (animals)	<i>Emydoidea blandingii</i>	Blanding's turtle
	<i>Elaphe vulpina gloydi</i>	Eastern fox snake
	<i>Opheodrys vernalis</i>	Smooth green snake

Source: NASA (1997).

#### **8.4.5 Population and Land Use**

The 1990 population of Erie County was 76,779, with a total of 32,827 housing units. During the summer, the population at Sandusky increases by approximately 50% because of tourism (NASA 1997).

The area surrounding Plum Brook Station is largely rural and agricultural. Some food processing facilities, including dairy and meat processing operations, are located in the area. During the summer, tourism and recreation are important economic influences in the Sandusky area.

Most of the land at the Plum Brook Station consists of forestland and old fields. About 25% of the acreage is used for offices, test facilities, roads, and infrastructure. The remaining portions of Plum Brook Station are unused. Other organizations maintaining offices or using space at Plum Brook Station include the U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Labor, U.S. Department of Defense, Immigration and Naturalization Service, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Army Reserve, and Ohio Air and Army National Guards (NASA 1997).

#### **8.4.6 Cultural and Historical Resources**

The Spacecraft Propulsion Research Facility (B-2 Facility) at Plum Brook Station has been designated a National Historic Landmark. Approximately 133 Native American archaeological sites outside the Plum Brook Station fence line have been placed on the Ohio Historic Society Register (NASA 1997).

#### **8.4.7 Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice**

Plum Brook Station employs about 120 people (NASA 1997). Large employers in the area include the Ford Motor Company, Delco-Chassis NDH, Imperial Clevite, Sandusky Plastics, and Sandusky Foundry and Machine. NASA's presence in the area provides local economic impacts and benefits nonetheless.

The *Environment Justice Implementation Plan for NASA Lewis Research Center* (Jones Technologies, Inc. 1996) determined that there were no substantial offsite impacts from the Plum Brook Station. The plan also identified that the minority populations (4200 blacks and 450 Hispanics) were located in the town of Sandusky, which has a total population of approximately 30,500. Sandusky and these populations are located 8 km (5 mi) or more from the Plum Brook Station.

#### **8.4.8 Transportation**

Plum Brook Station includes a 101-km (62.5-mi) internal paved road system. There is also a 25-km (15.7-mi) rail line that is currently unused (Morrison Knudsen 1994). Several State roads service the area. Route 250 is just to the east of the site and serves as a major route to the Plum Brook Station. The Ohio Turnpike (Interstate 80 and 90) is located 8 km (5 mi) south of the main entrance to the Plum Brook Station. Two major railroads, Conrail and Norfolk & Southern, serve the area.

#### **8.4.9 Noise**

Sources of noise at Plum Brook Station include an airstrip, transient noise blasts from test facilities, construction activities, and traffic noise. The Army Reserves and the Ohio Air National Guard also discharge pyrotechnic devices at Plum Brook Station (NASA 1997). None of these activities is a significant noise source, in part because impacts are mitigated by the large distances to offsite receptors. None of the activities occurring during decommissioning would result in sustained offsite noise impacts.

#### **8.4.10 Background Radiation Levels**

The public is continuously exposed to radiation from natural sources, primarily from cosmic radiation; external radiation from natural material in the earth and global fallout; and internal radiation from natural radioactive materials taken into the body via air, water, and food. The public receives and accepts the risks associated with radiation exposures from medical x-rays, nuclear medicine procedures, and consumer products. On average, a member of the public in the

United States receives approximately 300 mrem/yr from natural sources of radiation; 50 mrem/yr from medical procedures; and 10 mrem/yr from consumer products, for a total of 360 mrem/yr (NCRP 1987).

## **8.5 Environmental Impacts of Proposed Action and Alternatives**

This section discusses the potential direct and cumulative effects of the proposed action on human health and the environment.

### **8.5.1 Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action**

#### **8.5.1.1 *Human Health Effects***

This section identifies and discusses expected impacts to workers and people offsite from normal PBRF decommissioning activities and potential accidents. The general nature of industrial and radiological hazards associated with PBRF decommissioning are identified in Section 2.3.1.4 of the PBRF decommissioning plan.

#### **Industrial Hazards**

The decontamination and decommissioning operations will involve several hundreds of thousands of hours of labor. Activities will include soil excavation, concrete removal, piping and equipment removal, and building demolition. Workers will be exposed to industrial hazards and there is the potential of occupational accidents. The hazards associated with these activities will be identified and managed as discussed in the PBRF decommissioning plan.

#### **Radiological Hazards**

##### ***Estimated Worker Exposure***

The collective dose equivalent estimate to workers for the entire decommissioning project is about 70 person-rem over the approximate 4-year decommissioning project (see Section 2.3.1.4 of the PBRF decommissioning plan). Total person hours involving radiological exposure is estimated to be 100,000 hours. The estimated occupational exposure for the DECON alternative of the reference test reactor in the *Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement on Decommissioning of Nuclear Facilities* (NUREG-0586) is 344 person-rem (NRC 1988). These exposure estimates are consistent given the fact the estimate in the PBRF decommissioning plan is for DECON after about 30 years of decay, while the NRC estimate is for a DECON alternative shortly after shutdown of the reactor.

Occupational exposure associated with shipment of the low level waste was estimated in NASA's 1980 environmental report to be 18 person-rem (NASA 1980). This is similar to the estimate of 22 person-rem for the reference test reactor presented in NRC (1988). Because of the decay that has occurred since reactor shutdown, the actual doses to offsite populations are expected to be even less. A scaled estimate of the occupational exposure associated with waste

transportation based on the "Generic Environmental Impact Statement in Support of Rulemaking on Radiological Criteria for License Termination of NEC-licensed Nuclear Facility" (NUREG-1496) is 5 person-rem.

### ***Estimated Public Exposure***

The dose to the offsite public from routine releases is expected to be small. NUREG-0586 estimates this dose to be negligible (less than 0.1 person-rem) (NRC 1988). This is consistent with general conclusion drawn from the conservative accident analysis presented in Section 3.3 of the PBRF decommissioning plan. The largest accident analyzed resulted in an offsite dose of about 0.5 mrem.

The cumulative offsite dose because of shipping of radioactive waste will be small. In its 1980 Environmental Report (NASA 1980a), NASA estimated the population dose due to shipment of waste to be 8.2 person-rem. NUREG-0586 estimates population dose for waste shipment to be 22 person-rem (NRC 1988). These estimates are generally consistent because the 1980 estimate was based on waste shipments after about a decade of decay while the NRC estimate assumed the shipments were made a few years after reactor shutdown. The population dose that will occur during planned decommissioning should be less than these estimates because of the decay that has occurred since reactor shutdown. A scaled estimate of public exposure associated with waste transportation based on the "Generic Environmental Impact Statement in Support of Rulemaking on Radiological Criteria for License Termination of NEC-licensed Nuclear Facility" (NUREG-1496) is 0.5 person-rem.

The dose due to potential accidents will also be small. The conservative accident analysis presented in Section 3.3 of the PBRF decommissioning plan shows that offsite doses to the maximally exposed individual should be less than 0.5 mrem. This is consistent with the assessment made in NUREG-0586, which showed the maximum dose due to onsite accidents to be 0.25 mrem to the lung (NRC 1988).

The anticipated potential exposures to the public after license termination is also negligible. The site will have been released to unrestricted use. This means the maximum dose to the "average member of the critical group" will be less than 25 mrem. In fact, any realistic estimate of dose will be much less than 25 mrem/yr because decontamination will be more extensive than required to meet minimum license termination requirements and exposure will not occur for some time because NASA has no plans to make the site available for public reuse. The projected dose after license termination will be dominated by nuclides such as Cs-137 and Co-60, which have half-lives 30 and 5 years, respectively.

### **Nonradiological Transportation Impacts**

Transportation would be conducted in accordance with applicable U.S. Department of Transportation, U.S. EPA, and NRC regulations. The radiological impacts of incident-free transportation will be minimal as discussed above. During such transport, hazardous and radioactive materials will be effectively packaged to prevent significant radiation external to the truck or rail car. The primary nonradiological impacts would be due to emissions and noise from the trucks or trains themselves and potential accidents resulting in injuries or fatalities.

### **8.5.1.2 Environmental Impacts**

#### **Air Quality**

Several decommissioning-related activities could minimally impact air quality because of both mobile and stationary source emissions. A small amount of mobile source emissions, such as carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxides, could be released from contractors' equipment, such as backhoes, cranes, trucks, and cars. The impact of these sources should be minimal.

#### **Hydrology**

The site elevation is approximately 191 m (625 ft) above mean sea level. It is not within either the 100-year or 500-year flood plain. Groundwater is currently pumped at the PBRF to prevent it from entering the basements of buildings, such as the Reactor Building. The pumping has created a localized cone of depression in the groundwater surface, but it has no impact on the larger groundwater flow. At some time, groundwater pumping will be terminated, the local groundwater depression will cease, and the general groundwater flow pattern (flow to the north and north east) will establish itself over the entire PBRF area.

#### **Biologic Resources**

The PBRF is an industrial area with no known sensitive or endangered species.

#### **Population and Land Use**

The proposed action will involve less than 100 additional employees at Plum Brook Station for the duration of the project. There will be no change in land use as a result of the decommissioning project. The area of the PBRF will remain as part of the buffer zone for the Plum Brook Station.

#### **Cultural and Historical Resources**

There are no cultural resources on the site of the PBRF and the decommissioning project will not impact other portions of the Plum Brook Station (NASA 1997)

No historical survey is reported for the Plum Brook Station. There are Native American archaeological sites outside the Plum Brook Station fenceline. There may be similar sites on the Plum Brook Station grounds, but no undisturbed ones would be expected at PBRF because of the extensive site construction that occurred during the late 1950s and early 1960s (NASA 1997)

#### **Aesthetics**

The PBRF has minimal visibility from offsite locations. The decommissioning project will remove most of the structures in the area of PBRF and restore the land closer to its condition before the PBRF was constructed. The remainder of the Plum Brook Station will not be impacted by the proposed action.

## **Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice**

During decommissioning of PBRF, less than 100 people will be employed for the duration of the project. This labor is a small fraction of the total Erie County labor force, which is about 40,000 (PeopleVision, 1996). The offsite impacts of PBRF decommissioning will be minimal and there would be no disproportionate impacts on minority populations.

### **Noise**

During PBRF decommissioning activities, local noise will be generated by equipment such as jackhammers, scabblers, and concrete saws. Backhoes and other heavy equipment could also be used for partial dismantling activities. Onsite workers will be outfitted with ear protection devices. The closest offsite receptors are over 914 m (3000 ft) away. Noise from PBRF decommissioning activities should have no impact offsite.

#### **8.5.1.3 Cumulative Effects**

Cumulative impacts for PBRF decommissioning will be minimal. The only impact will be the small impacts associated with the disposal of radioactive and nonradioactive waste at licensed facilities. Only small amounts of hazardous waste are expected to be generated as a result of PBRF decontamination and decommissioning. The majority of the hazardous waste is expected to be generated from removing friable lead paint. The waste will be removed by a licensed contractor and disposed of at a licensed facility.

The total estimated volume of low-level radioactive and mixed waste from Plum Brook decommissioning is about 3100 m<sup>3</sup> (110,000 ft<sup>3</sup>). Most of this volume is Class A. A small fraction would be classified as Class B or C. There will be no Greater-Than-Class C waste. It is also estimated that there will be a very small amount (about 2.1 m<sup>3</sup> [75 ft<sup>3</sup>]) of mixed waste comprised of contaminated lead paint scraping or chips.

Some nonhazardous solid waste will be generated during decontamination and decommissioning. The material that has scrap value (e.g., copper wire and steel plate) will be recycled. Clean demolition debris will be used as fill material for decontaminated belowgrade structures. Material that has no scrap value and is not acceptable for fill will be disposed offsite in an industrial landfill.

The impacts of waste disposal actions should be within the limits of impacts analyzed when the facilities were granted their licenses.

## **8.5.2 Environmental Impacts of Alternatives**

### **8.5.2.1 Safe Storage**

Alternative 1 to the proposed action is Safe Storage (SAFSTOR). Implementing this alternative would necessitate continued surveillance and maintenance of the PBRF over a period of time. Impacts during the storage period would be minimal although there would be substantial

monitoring and maintenance costs. Eventually, decontamination and decommissioning would be required. The impacts of delayed decontamination and decommissioning would be comparable or slightly less than those of the proposed action.

#### **8.5.2.2 Entombment**

Alternative 2 to the proposed action is Entombment (ENTOMB). Implementing this alternative would necessitate continued surveillance and maintenance of the PBRF over a substantial time period until the activity has decayed to minimal levels. The time period for this level of decay has not been determined for PBRF. Information presented in NUREG-0586 (NRC 1988) and preliminary dose analyses conducted by NASA suggest entombment would have to last for timeframes on the order of a hundred years. There would be costs associated with such long-term monitoring and maintenance.

## **9. CHANGES TO THE DECOMMISSIONING PLAN**

NASA may want to make changes to portions of the decommissioning plan, including the description of actions that will be taken during decommissioning, the organizations that will be involved in decommissioning and their specific role, procedures in effect during decommissioning, or specific programs that will be maintained during decommissioning. NASA may want to make such changes to improve safety or the cost effectiveness of the overall operation.

NASA will prepare a change control procedure to determine if such a change can be made without prior NRC approval. This procedure will require applying a test similar to that identified in 10 CFR 50.59. This procedure will (1) identify the criteria and methods to be used to determine whether a proposed change can be implemented without prior NRC approval, (2) specify the review and approval process, and (3) identify the documentation and reporting requirements. The impacts of the proposed change will be determined by conducting an accident analysis comparable to that presented in Section 3.3 of this plan. If the analysis concludes that the proposed change will not result in (1) a new type of release scenario or (2) offsite doses of more than 1 rem whole body dose or 5 rem thyroid dose identified in the U.S. EPA PAGs (EPA 1992) from an unmitigated accident, the proposed change can be made by NASA without NRC approval. The NASA change will be contingent upon review and approval of the analysis by the Decommissioning Safety Committee, the Radiation Safety Officer, and the Decommissioning Project Manager.

If the proposed change results in (1) a new type of release scenario, (2) offsite consequences that exceed the U.S. EPA PAGs, or (3) involves a change in the technical specifications, the change cannot be made without NRC approval.

NASA will maintain records of decommissioning plan changes made until decommissioning activities have been completed. NASA will submit an annual report to NRC that identifies the changes that were made.

## 10. REFERENCES

- Abel, K.H., et al., 1986. *Residual Radionuclide Contamination Within and Around Commercial Nuclear Power Plants*, NUREG/CR-4289, Battelle Pacific Northwest Laboratory, Richland, Washington, February.
- Abelquist, E.W., W.S. Brown, G.E. Powers, and A.M. Huffert, 1997. *Minimum Detectable Concentrations with Typical Radiation Survey Instruments for Various Contaminants and Field Conditions*," NUREG-1507, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC, December.
- ANSI (American National Standards Institute), 1978. *Radiation Protection Instrumentation Test and Calibration*, ANSI N323.
- Beyeler, W.E., T.J. Brown, W.A. Hareland, S. Conrad, N. Olague, D. Brousseau, E. Kalinina, D.P. Gallegos, and P.A. Davis, 1998a. "Review of Parameter Data for the NUREG/CR-5512 Residential Farmer Scenario and Probability Distributions for the DandD Parameter Analysis," Letter Report, Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque, New Mexico, January 30.
- Beyeler, W.E., W.A. Hareland, F.A. Duran, E. Kalinina, D.P. Gallegos, and P.A. Davis, 1998b. "Review of Parameter Data for the NUREG/CR-5512 Building Reuse Scenario and Probability Distributions for the DandD Parameter Analysis," Letter Report, Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque, New Mexico, January 30.
- Brodsky, A., 1980. "Resuspension Factors and Probabilities of Intake of Material in Process (or 'Is  $10^{-6}$  a Magic Number in Health Physics?)," *Health Physics Journal* 39 (6): 992-1000.
- Dosa, J. 1987. U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Appendix to letter to Edward A. Richley, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Lewis Research Center. Subject: Technical Specifications, License No. TR-3, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Docket No. 50-30. January 28.
- Gogolak, C.V., G.E. Powers, and A.M. Huffert, 1998. *A Nonparametric Statistical Methodology for the Design and Analysis of Final Status Decommissioning Surveys*," NUREG-1505, Washington, DC, January.
- ICRP (International Commission on Radiological Protection), 1979. *Limits for intake of Radionuclide by Workers*," ICRP Publication No. 30, Pergamon Press, Oxford, England.
- IT Corporation, 1997. *Site-Wide Groundwater Investigation, Former Plum Brook Ordnance Works, Sandusky, Ohio*," Rev 1, September.
- IT Corporation, 1999. "Draft Summary Report, Site-Wide Groundwater Monitoring (1997-1998) Former Plum Brook Ordnance Works, Sandusky, Ohio," Revision 0, February.
- Jones Technologies, Inc., 1996. "Environmental Justice Implementation Plan for NASA Lewis Research Center," Lanham, Maryland, April.

- Kennedy, W.E., Jr. and D.L. Strenge, 1992. *Residual Radioactive Contamination from Decommissioning*," NUREG/CR-5512, Vol. 1, Pacific Northwest Laboratory, Richland, Washington, October.
- Mendonca, M.M. 1998. U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to D.C. Campbell NASA Lewis Research Center, May 19, 1998, Subject: Appendix A Technical Specifications for the License No. TR-3, National Aeronautics and Space Administration Plum Brook Station, Sandusky, Ohio, Docket No. 50-30.
- Murphy, E.S., 1978. *Technology, Safety and Costs of Decommissioning a Reference Pressurized Water Reactor Power Station*," NUREG/CR-0130, Addendum 3, Pacific Northwest Laboratory, Richland, Washington, September.
- NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration), 1969. Drawing No. 2.03, "NASA Lewis Research Center – Plum Brook Station, Sandusky, Ohio, Reactor Building, Building No. 1111," January.
- NASA, 1980a. "Environmental Report Plum Brook Reactor Dismantling," NASA Lewis Research Center, Cleveland, Ohio, Docket No. 50-30, February.
- NASA, 1980b. "Dismantling Plan Plum Brook Reactor Dismantling," NASA Lewis Research Center, Cleveland, Ohio, Docket No. 50-30, February 18.
- NASA, 1997. Environmental Resources Document for the NASA Lewis Research Center.
- NCRP (National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements), 1987. "Ionizing Radiation Exposure of the Population of the United States," Report No. 93.
- NRC (U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission), 1980–1981. *Environmental Impact Appraisal for the Plum Brook Reactor Dismantling*."
- NRC, 1981a. "Orders Authorizing Dismantling of Facilities and Disposition of Component Parts," May 26.
- NRC, 1981b. "Dismantling order for the PBRF reactors," as cited in C.O. Thomas, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to E.A. Richley, Director of Administration, NASA Lewis Research Center, June 1984.
- NRC, 1988. *Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement on Decommissioning of Nuclear Facilities*, NUREG-0586, August.
- NRC, 1991. 10 CFR Part 20, "Standards for Protection Against Radiation," *Federal Register*, Vol. 56, No. 88, May 21.
- NRC, 1996. *Guidelines for Preparing and Reviewing Applications for the Licensing of Non-Power Reactors*, NUREG-1537, February.
- NRC, 1997. "Generic Environmental Impact Statement in Support of Rulemaking on Radiological Criteria for License Termination of NRC-Licensed Nuclear Facilities," NUREG-1496, Volume 1, July.

- NRC, 1998a. *Demonstrating Compliance with the Radiological Criteria for License Termination*, Draft Regulatory Guide DG-4006, August.
- NRC, 1998b. *Using Decision Methods for Dose Assessment to Comply With Radiological Criteria for License Termination*,” Draft, NUREG-1549, February.
- NRC, 1998c. “Supplemental Information on the Implementation of the Final Rule on Radiological Criteria for License Termination,” *Federal Register*, Vol. 63, No. 222, November, pp. 64132–64134.
- NRC, 1999. *Acceptable Programs for Respiratory Protection*, Regulatory Guide 8.15, Revision 1, October.
- PeopleVision, 1996. “Erie County, Sandusky, Ohio Title Page, Planning and Economic Development,” web site <http://www.erie.oh.us/ped.html>.
- SAIC (Science Applications International Corporation), 1991. “NASA Plum Brook Station Preliminary Assessment,” June.
- SAIC, 1998. *Nuclear Fuel Cycle Facility Accident Analysis Handbook*,” NUREG/CR-6410, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC.
- Schneider, K.J. and C.E. Jenkins, 1977. *Technology, Safety, and Costs of Decommissioning a Reference Nuclear Fuel Reprocessing Plant*, NUREG-0278, Battelle Pacific Northwest Laboratory, Richland, Washington, October.
- Smith, R.I., G.J. Konzek, and W.E. Kennedy Jr., 1978. *Technology, Safety and Costs of Decommissioning a Reference Pressurized Water Reactor Power Station*, NUREG/CR-0130, Vol. 1, Battelle Pacific Northwest Laboratory, Richland, Washington, June.
- Teledyne Isotopes, 1987. “An Evaluation of the Plum Brook Reactor Facility and Documentation of Existing Conditions, Volume 3: Physical Characterization of Radioactive/Contaminated Areas of the PBRF,” December.
- USAEC (U.S. Atomic Energy Commission), 1974. *Termination of Operating Licenses for Nuclear Reactors*, Regulatory Guide 1.86, June.
- USEPA (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency), 1988. *Limiting Values of Radionuclide Intake and Air Concentration and Dose Conversion Factors for Inhalation, Submersion, and Ingestion, Federal Guidance Report No. 11*, EPA-520/1-88-020, Office of Radiation Programs, Washington, DC.
- USEPA, 1992. *Manual of Protection Action Guides and Protective Actions for Nuclear Incidents*, 400-R-92-001, Office of Radiation Programs, Washington, DC, May.
- USEPA, 1993. *External Exposure to Radionuclides in Air, Water and Soil*, Federal Guidance Report No. 12, EPA-402-R-93-081, Office of Radiation and Indoor Air, Washington, DC.

- USEPA, 1994. *Guidance for the Data Quality Objectives Process*," EPA/600/R-96/055, EPA QA/G-4, Washington DC.
- USEPA, U.S. NRC, U.S. DOE, and U.S. DOD, 1997. *Multi-Agency Radiation Survey and Site Investigation Manual (MARSSIM)*," Final, NUREG-1575, EPA 402-R-97-016, December.
- Yu, C., A.J. Zielen, J.J. Cheng, Y.C. Yuan, L.G. Jones, D.J. LePoire, Y.Y. Wang, C.O. Louriero, E. Gnanapragasam, E. Faillace, A. Wallo, W.A. Williams, and H. Peterson, 1993. *Manual for Implementing Residual Radioactive Material Guidelines Using RESRAD, Version 5.0*, ANL/EAD/LD-2, Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Illinois, September.
- Yu, C., D.J. LePoire, C.O. Louriero, L.G. Jones, and S.Y. Chen, 1994. *RESRAD-BUILD: A Computer Model for Analyzing the Radiological Doses Resulting from the Remediation and Occupancy of Buildings Contaminated with Radioactive Material*, ANL/EAD/LD-3, Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Illinois, November.

**APPENDIX A**

**1998 CONFIRMATORY CHARACTERIZATION SURVEY  
FOR THE PLUM BROOK REACTOR FACILITY**

## APPENDIX A

### 1998 CONFIRMATORY CHARACTERIZATION SURVEY

#### A.1 Survey Objective

A radiological survey of the Plum Brook Reactor Facility (PBRF) was conducted in 1985 as documented in "An Evaluation of the Plum Brook Reactor Facility and Documentation of Existing Conditions, Volume 3: Physical Characterization of Radioactive/Contaminated Areas of the PBRF," by Teledyne Isotopes, December 1987. A confirmatory survey was conducted in September 1998 to verify the 1985 results and to provide additional isotopic data to use for estimating doses license termination.

During the 1998 confirmatory survey, the areas known to require remediation (e.g., the Emergency Retention Basin [ERB] and the Pentolite Ditch) were sampled to confirm the 1985 data. The 1998 survey also examined areas and buildings that were expected to not require decontamination. These areas were examined because contamination in these areas could impact decommissioning planning and costs.

#### A.2 Survey Sampling Design

Surveys were performed according to project-specific procedures and the *Sampling and Survey Plan for the Plum Brook Test Reactor Facility*. The procedures identified survey instrument requirements, measurement and sample collection methods, and data reduction and evaluation methods. The sampling and survey plan identified the survey protocols. Implementation of the sampling and survey plan included the following:

- Developing survey packages (portfolios) for the survey areas
- Mapping the survey locations as applicable
- Collecting survey measurements and analyzing samples using appropriately calibrated instruments
- Downloading the survey data into a database for storage and processing
- Reviewing completed survey packages to ensure that all required surveys were performed and that the completed survey packages contained all necessary information
- Comparing the survey results with the 1985 characterization data
- Identifying areas that were not previously identified during the 1985 survey.

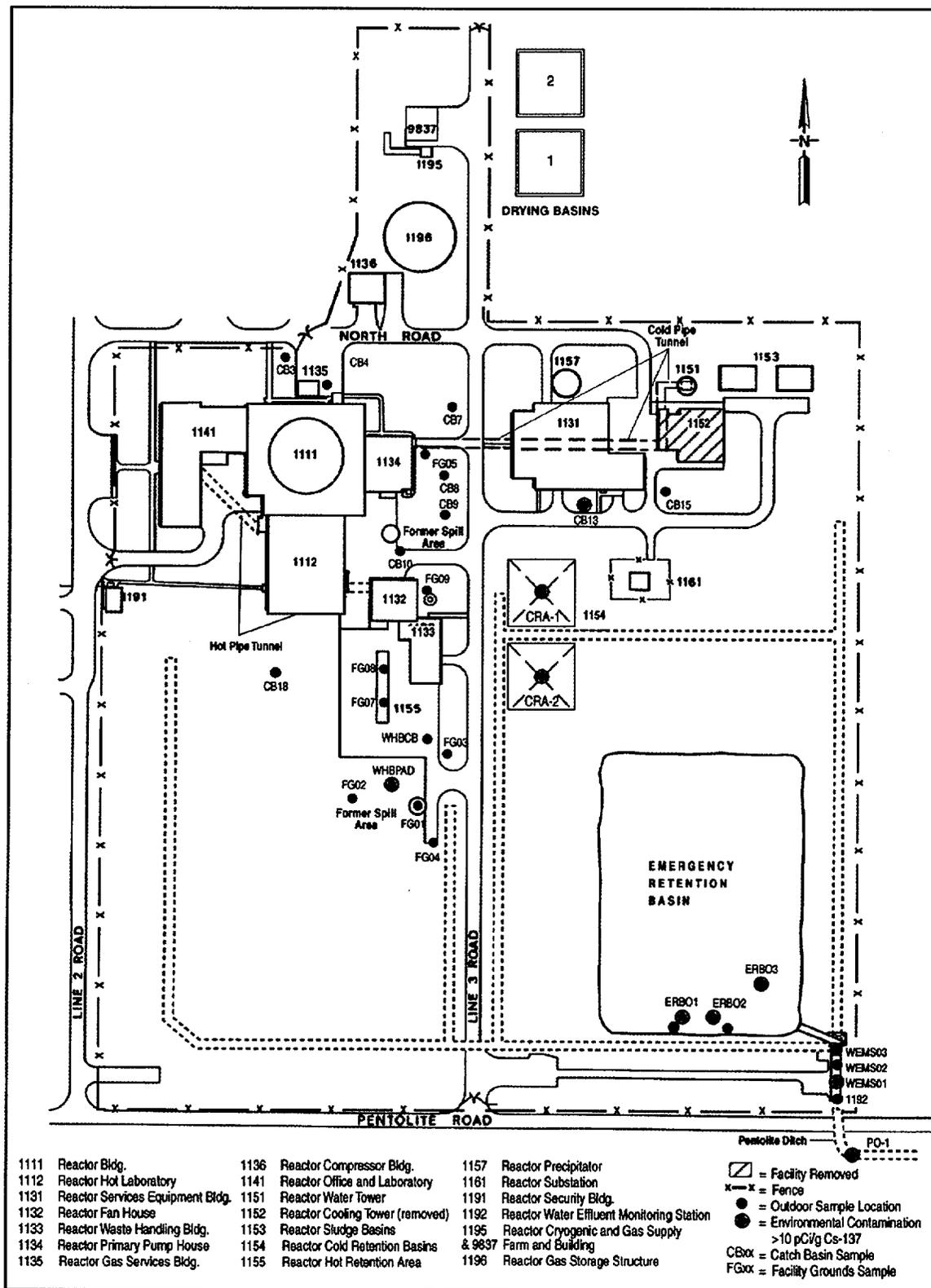
The sampling and survey design is described in Sections A.2.1 through A.2.5.

##### A.2.1 Survey Package Development

For each area surveyed, a survey package, or portfolio, was developed by performing a walk-down and preparing a worksheet/tracking sheet outlining the general survey instructions,

location codes, and specific survey instructions for any abnormal conditions within the area. Survey progress was tracked using completion and review signature blocks. The PBRF areas sampled during the 1998 confirmatory survey (shown on Figure A-1), along with a brief characterization of the 1985 results, are listed below.

- ***Emergency Retention Basin***—Slightly contaminated water from the plant effluent was diverted to the Emergency Retention Basin and allowed to evaporate or percolate into the ground. The 1985 characterization identified low levels of contamination in this area.
- ***Water Effluent Monitoring Station (Building 1192)***—The site effluent was continuously monitored and discharged at the Water Effluent Monitoring Station. If radioactivity was detected in the effluent, the gates were closed and the water was diverted to the Emergency Retention Basin. The 1985 characterization identified no activity on the building, but small amounts of activity were identified in the sediments.
- ***Pentolite Ditch***—The Pentolite Ditch receives all site effluent after it passes through the Water Effluent Monitoring Station and discharges the effluent at Plum Brook. The 1985 characterization identified areas of low-level radioactivity requiring remediation.
- ***PBRF Grounds***—The outdoor PBRF areas enclosed within the fence were extensively surveyed and sampled during the 1985 characterization to assess the potential of ground contamination from stack fallout, spills, and spread by personnel traffic. The 1985 characterization identified a few localized areas of contamination.
- ***PBRF Pavement***—No characterization data from the 1985 survey were available for the access ways paved with asphalt and concrete.
- ***Catch Basins***—Approximately 40 catch basins and stormwater basins at the PBRF drain to the Water Effluent Monitoring Station. No significant activity was found in these basins during the 1985 characterization, except for low levels of radioactivity in the sediments that had collected in the basins.
- ***Cold Retention Basins (1154)***—The Cold Retention Basins consist of two retention basins designed for storing low-level contaminated water from the reactor quadrants and canals. The silt that had accumulated in the Cold Retention Basins was found to be contaminated.
- ***Reactor Building (1111)***—The Reactor Building has two basement levels, a main level, and some second floor offices. The Reactor Building houses the containment vessel that encloses the reactor tank and associated testing equipment and reactor systems. The 1985 characterization showed that the quadrants and canals were contaminated, as well as some surface areas of the rooms.
- ***Reactor Office and Laboratory Building (1141)***—The Reactor Office and Laboratory Building houses personnel offices, laboratories, drafting, photographic developing, health physics, and electronic services. The 1985 characterization identified some contamination in Rooms 212 and 214, as well as inside several of the laboratory hoods.



1480D-A-1

Figure A-1. PBRF Outdoor Sample Locations

- **Reactor Service Equipment Building (1131)**—The Reactor Service Equipment Building was not surveyed during the 1985 characterization because it was considered to be a clean building.
- **Fan House (1132)**—The Fan House contains the ventilation systems for the Reactor Building and hot cells. The 1985 characterization (Teledyne Isotopes, 1987) showed no contamination on the building structure, but contamination was found in the ventilation equipment.
- **Waste Handling Building (1133)**—The Waste Handling Building contained the waste evaporator, contaminated systems, and small quantities of low-level radioactive waste. The 1985 characterization showed no contamination on the building structure, but contamination was found in some of the waste handling systems.
- **Service Tunnels**—Three underground service tunnels, excluding the hot pipe tunnel, connect the Reactor Building with the other PBRF buildings. Minimal contamination was identified in these tunnels during the 1985 characterization.
- **Canal F**—Canal F is located outside of the containment vessel and was found to contain contamination.
- **Petri Dish Samples**—In addition to samples collected in 1998, NASA provided samples taken from sumps during the 1985 survey for isotopic analysis.

The levels of contamination at these areas are identified in Section A.4.

### A.2.2 Survey Requirements

The survey protocols, based in part on the 1985 characterization surveys, are specified in the *Sampling and Survey Plan for the Plum Brook Test Reactor Facility*. These protocols consist of both direct beta surface activity measurements and sampling. Where applicable, the survey protocols (e.g., sampling depths and intervals) used during the 1985 characterization were duplicated to confirm the results.

The areas that were not surveyed during 1998 are the hot cells, inside the reactor containment vessel, hot pipe tunnels, inside the Hot Retention Area, resin pits, and other primary systems. These areas are known to be contaminated, and additional surveys would not result in changes to the decommissioning costs.

### A.2.3 Radionuclides of Concern

The radionuclides of concern at the PBRF consist of both mixed fission products and activated materials, with the primary radionuclides being Co-60 and Cs-137. Other mixed fission products and activated materials are also present; however, the quantities of these radionuclides constitute a small percentage of the total activities.

For the confirmatory survey, only the easily detected radionuclides were analyzed (by gamma spectroscopy) and quantified. As a result, beta emitters; radionuclides that are difficult to detect (i.e., Sr-90, Fe-55, and Ni-63); and other low-energy beta emitters were not identified and

quantified. The analysis for the primary gamma emitters (Co-60 and Cs-137) and europium were considered adequate to verify the contaminated and uncontaminated areas identified from the 1985 characterization data.

#### **A.2.4 Gridding**

Because the 1998 survey was designed to confirm and supplement the 1985 survey, new gridding was not performed. Most measurements and samples were taken at biased locations based on the 1985 characterization data and the requirements of the sampling and survey plan.

#### **A.2.5 Survey Records**

Survey records were maintained in the area-specific survey packages according to project procedures. Each survey package included the following records, if appropriate:

- Survey Package Worksheet, giving the survey package identification, survey location information, general survey instructions, and any specific survey instructions
- Survey Comment Addendum, containing comments from the survey technician regarding any unusual situation encountered while surveying
- Survey Unit Diagram, a diagram of the area to be surveyed, if available
- Printout of laboratory analysis results
- Ludlum Model 2350 data files and Paradox® converted values for all radiation survey measurements.

Total beta surface activity was directly measured using the Ludlum Model 2350 Data Logger system. After completing a survey, the contents of the Data Logger's memory were downloaded to a database.

A proprietary computer program was used to generate a survey report that presented the raw data and converted data by survey location. The survey technician and supervisor reviewed these reports for completeness, accuracy, and suspect entries and compared the data to the 1985 characterization data.

Data and document control included maintaining the raw data files and translated data files (Paradox® database files) and documenting all corrections made to the data. The databases were backed up daily.

### **A.3 Survey Instrumentation**

The survey instruments used had sensitivities that were sufficient to detect the identified primary radionuclides at the minimum detection requirements. Table A-1 provides a list of the survey instruments, types of radiation detected, and calibration sources used during the 1998 confirmatory survey.

**Table A-1. Survey Instrumentation**

<b>Instrument/ Detector</b>	<b>Detector Type</b>	<b>Radiation Detected</b>	<b>Calibration Source</b>	<b>Use</b>
Ludlum Model 2350/43-68, 43-98 or 43-94	Gas-flow proportional (126 cm <sup>2</sup> )	Alpha or beta	Tc-99 (β) Th-230 (α)	Direct measurements and smear counting
Ludlum Model 2350/44-2	NaI scintillator	Gamma	Cs-137	Gamma exposure rate
Ludlum Model 2350/44-40	Shielded GM (15.5 cm <sup>2</sup> )	Beta	Tc-99 (β)	Direct measurements
Ludlum Model 2350/43-5	ZnS scintillator (45.5 cm <sup>2</sup> )	Alpha	Th-230 (α)	Direct measurements
Tennelec LB 5100 Planchet Counter	Gas-flow proportional	Alpha and beta	Tc-99 (β) Th-230 (α)	Smear counting
Gamma Spectroscopy (Lab)	HPGe	Gamma	Mixed	Nuclide identification and quantification

The Ludlum Model 2350 Data Logger, along with a variety of detectors, was used for directly measuring total beta surface activity as well as measuring exposure rates. This data logger is a portable, micro-processor, computer-based counting instrument capable of operating with NaI(Tl) gamma scintillation, gas-flow proportional, GM, and ZnS scintillation detectors.

The detector selected depended on the survey to be performed, surface contours, and the size of the survey area. The 126-cm<sup>2</sup> (19.5 in.<sup>2</sup>) gas-flow proportional detector was used for direct beta measurements, and a 2.5-cm × 2.5-cm (1-in. × 1-in.) NaI(Tl) gamma scintillation detector was used for exposure rate measurements.

### A.3.1 Instrument Calibration

Ludlum Measurements, Inc., calibrates the data loggers and associated detectors semiannually using National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)-traceable sources and calibration equipment. Calibration of the data loggers includes:

- High voltage calibration
- Discriminator/threshold calibration
- Window calibration
- Alarm operation verification
- Scaler calibration verification.

Calibration of the detectors includes:

- Operating voltage determination
- Calibration constant determination
- Dead time correction determination.

Calibration labels with the instrument identification number, last calibration date, and next calibration due date were attached to all portable field instruments. The user checked the instrument calibration label before each use.

### A.3.2 Sources

Radioactive sources used for calibration or for determining efficiencies were representative of an instrument's response to the identified nuclides and are traceable according to NIST. Radiation protection technicians controlled the radioactive sources used for instrument response checks and efficiency determinations. The sources were stored securely and were signed out by survey technicians when needed in the field. A sign-out log was used to track the location of all sources when they were removed from the field office.

### A.3.3 Minimum Detectable Activity

The minimum detectable activity (MDA) is defined as the smallest amount or concentration of radioactive material in a sample that will yield a net positive count with a 5 percent probability of falsely interpreting background responses as true activity. The MDA is dependent upon the counting time, geometry, sample size, detector efficiency, and background count rate. As a data quality objective, the MDAs for the 1998 confirmatory survey were set to be approximately equal to or less than 50 percent of the site-specific guideline values developed in accordance with NUREG-1575, *Multi-Agency Radiation Survey and Site Investigation Manual (MARSSIM)*, December 1997. The equation used for calculating the MDA for field instrumentation is

$$MDA = \frac{\frac{2.71}{t_s} + 3.29 \sqrt{\frac{R_b}{t_s} + \frac{R_b}{t_b}}}{E \left( \frac{A}{100} \right)} \quad (A-1)$$

where

- MDA = minimum detectable activity (dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup>)
- t<sub>s</sub> = sample count time (minutes)
- R<sub>b</sub> = background count rate (cpm)
- t<sub>b</sub> = background count time (minutes)
- E = detector efficiency (counts/disintegrations)
- A = detector area (cm<sup>2</sup>).

*A priori* MDAs were established for the gamma spectroscopy equipment by counting an empty cave or a field blank. Count times were established to detect 0.1 pCi/g Cs-137 and Co-60 for shielded laboratory instruments on an *a priori* basis. Table A-2 provides a list of the typical MDAs for the primary radionuclides in the gamma spectroscopy analytical library for low activity samples. Samples with higher activity have higher MDAs. The other gamma-emitting radionuclides in the analytical library that are not shown in Table A-2 have MDAs similar to those in Table A-2 (i.e., less than 1 pCi/g).

**Table A-2. Typical Analytical Minimum Detectable Activities\***

<b>Radionuclide</b>	<b>Minimum Detectable Activity (pCi/g)</b>
Cs-137	0.1
Co-57	0.1
Co-60	0.1
Am-241	0.1
Eu-154/155	0.2
Mn-54	0.2
Zn-65	0.4
Sb-125	0.3

\* Typical for low activity samples.

#### **A.4 Survey Data Summary**

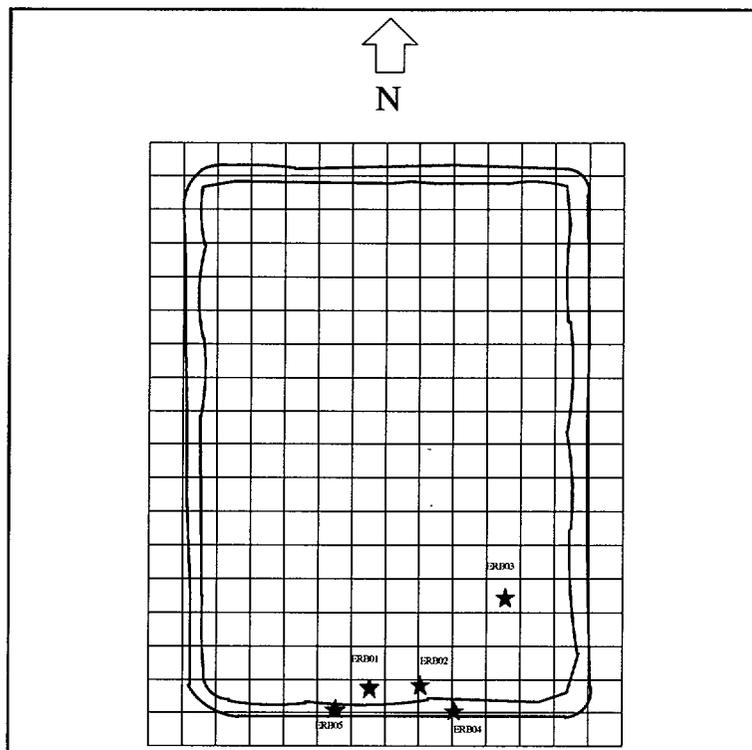
Where possible, the sampling techniques and locations used for the 1998 survey were duplicated from the 1985 survey to ensure consistency. However, because of the lack of benchmark and reference locations, exact locations could not be duplicated. Therefore, the results were compared primarily to identify any significant differences. As long as the results were the same order of magnitude and agreed well, it was assumed that the 1985 analytical results were valid. A summary of the 1998 survey results, as well as comparisons with the 1985 results, where applicable, is provided in Sections A.4.1 through A.4.15.

It should be noted that K-40, a naturally occurring radionuclide, was reported in the 1998 survey results to provide a data quality check; K-40 levels should not change over time and should be generally between 10 and 20 pCi/g. Potassium-40 concentrations are presented in the analytical results for each area and can indicate the validity of the data.

##### **A.4.1 Emergency Retention Basin**

Samples were taken at five locations at the Emergency Retention Basin at the same depth intervals used during the 1985 survey (i.e., 0 to 5 cm, 5 to 15 cm, and 15 to 30 cm [0 to 2 in., 2 to 6 in., and 6 to 12 in.]). Three samples (ERB01, ERB01, and ERB03) were collected from the basin itself, while the other two samples (ERB04 and ERB05) were collected from the berm surrounding the basin. The five sample locations are shown in Figure A-2.

The highest contamination levels were identified at ERB03 within the southern half of the basin. Contamination was also contained within the basin and on the downslope along the inside of the berms. Contamination levels within the basin ranged from 10 to 200 pCi/g Cs-137 and 1 to 30 pCi/g Co-60, with some detectable levels of Co-57. Table A-3 provides the 1998 analytical results from samples ERB01, ERB02, and ERB03. Samples ERB04 and ERB05 taken along the berm of the basin showed only detectable cesium activity in the range of 0 to 1 pCi/g. The 1985 decay-corrected results for the 0 to 5-cm (0 to 2-in.) depth interval are provided for comparison. The contamination levels identified at the Emergency Retention Basin during the 1998 survey are consistent with the 1985 analytical results.



**Figure A-2. Emergency Retention Basin Sampling Locations**

**Table A-3. Emergency Retention Basin Isotopic Results**

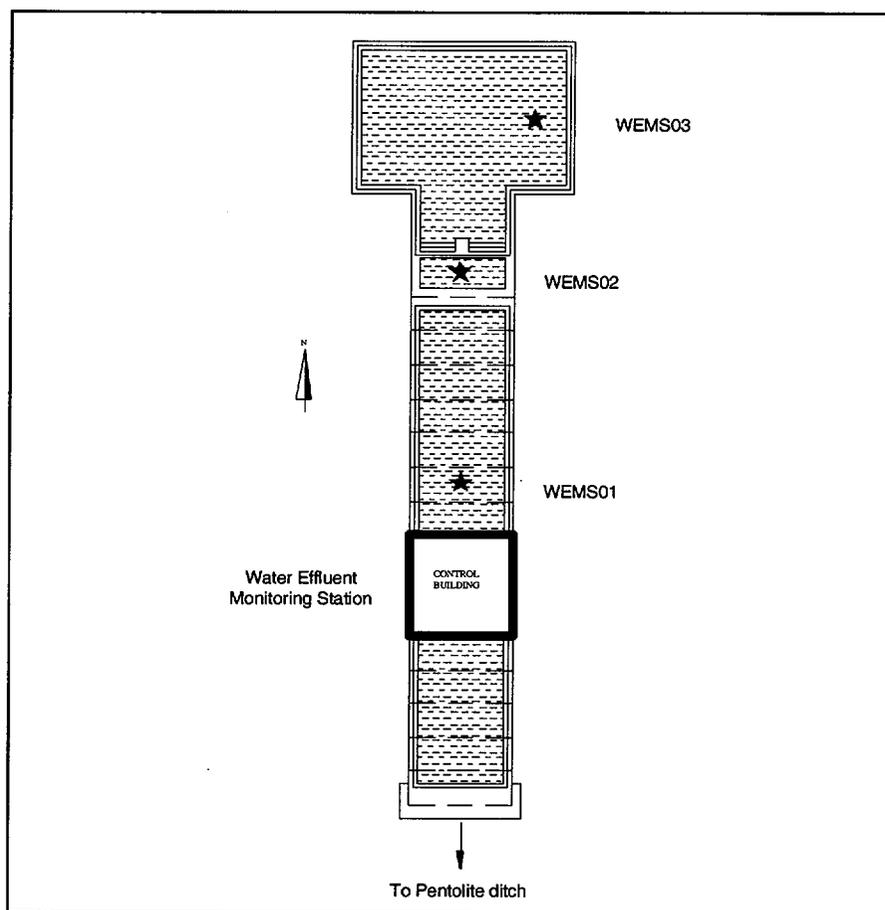
Depth Sampled	Range of Activity (pCi/g), September 1998						
	Cs-137	Co-60	Co-57	Eu-154	Eu-155	Am-241	K-40
0-5 cm (0-2 in.)	35-200	2-30	0-1	< 1	< 1	< 0.5	15-20
1985 Results	20-90	2-22	ND*	ND	ND	ND	13-18
5-15 cm (2-6 in.)	75-120	2-30	0-1	< 1	< 1	< 0.5	15-20
15-30 cm (6-12 in.)	3-11	1-3	< 1	< 0.5	< 1	< 0.2	15-20

\*. ND = not detected or less than the lower limit of detection.

The 1998 results in Table A-3 show that contamination was identified up to 30 cm (12 in.) below the surface of the Emergency Retention Basin (3 to 11 pCi/g Cs-137 and 1 to 3 pCi/g Co-60). While the 1985 results indicated that contamination was within the top 5 cm (2 in.) with some contamination in selected areas up to 15 cm (6 in.) deep, the 1998 results indicate a greater depth of contamination. This could be a result of several factors, including the use of more sensitive counting equipment and, more importantly, a result of contamination migration because of weathering over the last 10 to 15 years.

#### A.4.2 Water Effluent Monitoring Station

Direct and removable beta surveys were performed at the Water Effluent Monitoring Station, and three sediment samples were collected (refer to Figure A-3 for sample locations). (The point where effluent discharges to the Pentolite Ditch, PD1, was sampled as part of the Pentolite Ditch verification survey.)



**Figure A-3. Sample Locations at the Water Effluent Monitoring Station**

Low levels of detectable beta contamination (1000 to 4000 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup>) were identified on the concrete surfaces. All sediment samples had activities ranging from 4 to 11 pCi/g Cs-137 and 1 to 4 pCi/g Co-60. The analytical results are summarized in Table A-4. No equivalent data were reported in the 1985 characterization study with which to compare. However, the report indicated that there were low levels of detectable activity within the concrete trench, and the 1998 survey verifies this finding.

**Table A-4. Water Effluent Monitoring Station Isotopic Results**

Area Sampled	Range of Activity (pCi/g), September 1998						
	Cs-137	Co-60	Co-57	Eu-154	Eu-155	Am-241	K-40
Sediment	4-11	1-4	< 0.1	< 0.5	< 0.4	< 0.2	10-13

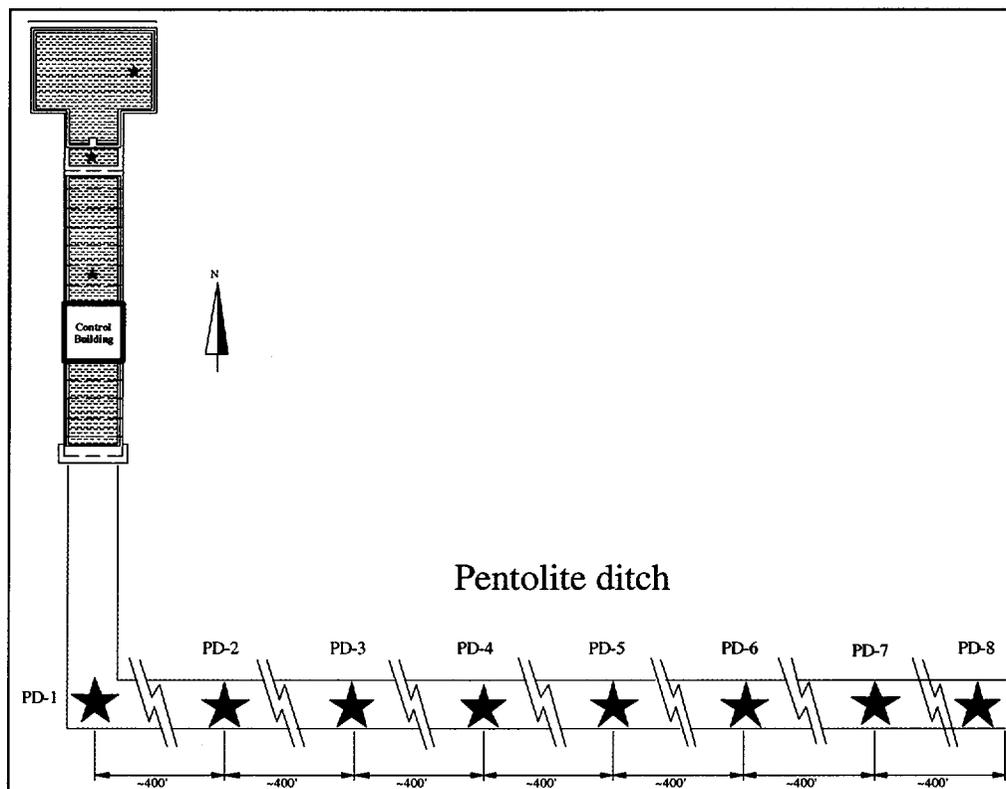
#### A.4.3 Pentolite Ditch

Verification sampling of the sediment in the Pentolite Ditch was performed along the entire length of the Pentolite Ditch as shown in Figure A-4 (PD-1 through PD-8). The 1985 sediment samples were taken from the bottom of the ditch, so the 1998 samples were also collected on the bottom of the ditch using long-handled tools.

The verification survey identified low levels of contamination in sediment (2 to 15 pCi/g Cs-137 and 0 to 1 pCi/g Co-60) along the first 305 m (1000 ft) of the ditch, with the highest levels being at the head of the ditch where the plant effluent was discharged. Table A-5 presents the 1998 analytical results from the eight 1998 Pentolite Ditch sediment samples. The 1985 decay-corrected isotopic results for two sediment samples along the first 305 m (1000 ft) of the ditch are provided for comparison. Review of the 1985 sediment and soil samples showed that of 97 samples analyzed in the laboratory, all but one sample had low levels of gross beta activity. The sample that had a high gross beta value was analyzed for isotopic composition and results showed about 71 pCi/g of Cs-137. The multiple 1985 samples that had low levels of gross beta are considered to be representative of contamination at the Pentolite Ditch. The 1998 survey confirmed that the Pentolite Ditch has levels of contamination slightly above background.

#### A.4.4 PBRF Grounds

Gamma scans of outdoor areas showed exposure rates of 5 to 10 micro-R/hr, which are typical for background levels. Ten surface and subsurface samples were taken across the outdoor areas (refer to Figure A-1 for sample locations FG01 through FG10). These locations correspond to the previous grid coordinate system locations H/I-9, G-10, J-10, I-8, I-19, D-18, H-12, H-13, I-15, and F-21. The 1985 characterization survey identified three contaminated areas located at grids H-18 (near the Primary Pump House resin pits), I-9/10 (known spill area near the Waste Handling Building concrete pad), and U-3 (near the Water Effluent Monitoring Station outlet). The 1998 survey confirmed the presence of contamination at grid H/I-9/10 (sample location FG01); however, the other two areas of elevated activity were not located. These other two areas may have been small, which would explain why they could not be located during the confirmatory survey. Soil was sampled at two locations (FG07 and FG08) inside the Hot Retention Area fence, but no contamination was found.



**Figure A-4. Sample Locations at the Pentolite Ditch**

**Table A-5. Pentolite Ditch Sediment Isotopic Results**

Area Sampled	Range of Activity (pCi/g), September 1998						
	Cs-137	Co-60	Co-57	Eu-154	Eu-155	Am-241	K-40
0 to 305 m (0–1000 ft)	2–15	0–1	< 0.1	< 0.5	< 0.5	< 0.2	12–17
1985 Results	3–71	0–0.1	ND*	ND	ND	ND	17–28
305 m (1000 ft) to End	0–2	< 0.2	< 0.1	< 0.5	< 0.5	< 0.2	14–22

\* ND = Not detected or less than the lower limit of detection (LLD).

A summary of the 1998 results for the facility grounds is provided in Table A-6. In the area of the Waste Handling Building concrete pad (FG01, which corresponds to grids H/I-9), the Cs-137 activity level was up to 200 pCi/g. There were no 1985 isotopic results with which to compare levels of contamination. Also, the depth of contamination could not be verified because asbestos was encountered. In general, the results of the 1998 survey showed very little activity on the facility grounds, which confirmed the 1985 characterization results.

**Table A-6. Facility Grounds Isotopic Results**

Area Sampled	Range of Activity (pCi/g), September 1998						
	Cs-137	Co-60	Co-57	Eu-154	Eu-155	Am-241	K-40
Known spill area near Waste Handling Building concrete pad (FG01)	201	0.3	< 0.2	< 0.3	< 0.2	< 0.6	16.5
Other areas (FG02 through FG10)	0-2	< 0.2	< 0.1	< 0.3	< 0.2	< 0.2	6-18

#### A.4.5 Facility Pavement

The asphalt and concrete pavement was sampled at two locations during the 1998 verification survey: (1) near the main entrance to the Reactor Building (1111), near the Reactor Gas Services Building (1135) and (2) near the Waste Handling Building concrete pad (WHBPAD) (refer to Figure A-1 for sample locations). Also, direct surveys were performed on paved and concrete areas throughout the site. Spotty contamination was identified over the asphalt and pavement in the area between the Primary Pump House (1134), Hot Laboratory (1112), and the Reactor Building (1111), as well as around the Waste Handling Building (1133) and Fan House (1132). This is consistent with the historical spill areas (grids H/I-9/10 and H-18) and the areas of contaminated soil identified during the 1985 characterization survey. Direct beta contamination levels ranged from 10,000 to 13,000,000 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup>, with the highest levels on the pad to the south of the Waste Handling Building (1133). No data from the 1985 characterization survey were found for the asphalt and concrete pavement at the PBRF.

In addition to these areas that were previously suspected of being contaminated, a spot of contamination was also identified near the main entrance to the Reactor Building (1111) near the access gate above the service tunnel. The surface activity at this spot measured 42,000 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup>.

A pavement sweeping (debris) sample was taken from the area with the highest direct surface activity near the Waste Handling Building (1133) (location on WHBPAD Figure A-1). This sample had 1300 pCi/g of Cs-137. Another sweeping sample was taken from the paved area near the Reactor Gas Services Building (1135) (see Figure A-1) where contamination was not detected using direct survey techniques. The results of these two samples are presented in Table A-7.

**Table A-7. Facility Pavement Isotopic Results**

Area Sampled	Range of Activity (pCi/g), September 1998						
	Cs-137	Co-60	Co-57	Eu-154	Eu-155	Am-241	K-40
Waste Handling Building (1133) concrete pad	1300	< 0.6	< 0.7	< 0.5	< 2.1	< 0.8	11.1
Reactor Building (1111) and Reactor Gas Services Building (1135)	0.2	< 0.1	< 0.04	< 0.3	< 0.2	< 0.1	15.4

**A.4.6 Catch Basins**

Ten catch basins at the PBRF were surveyed (CB3, CB4, CB7, CB8, CB9, CB10, CB13, CB15, CB18, and WHBCB), which included direct and removable activity surveys and collecting sediment samples (Figure A-1). The basins surveyed were in the areas where pavement contamination was identified, which included areas between the Primary Pump House (1134) and Hot Laboratory (1112), as well as around the Waste Handling Building (1133). Stormwater generally flows from north to south, and water from catch basins and drainage ditches (indicated by dotted lines on Figure A-1) is collected at the Water Effluent Monitoring Station and then discharged to the Pentolite Ditch.

Low levels of contamination ranging from 1 to 11 pCi/g Cs-137 and 1 to 5 pCi/g Co-60 were identified in the catch basin sediments. Direct activity surveys were performed, but very little direct activity was identified. The highest levels (5000 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup>) were identified in catch basin 13A, located immediately south of the Waste Handling Building (1133). This finding is consistent with the 1985 survey results. A summary of the sediment sample results is provided in Table A-8.

**Table A-8. Catch Basin Sediment Isotopic Results**

Area Sampled	Range of Activity (pCi/g), September 1998						
	Cs-137	Co-60	Co-57	Eu-154	Eu-155	Am-241	K-40
Sediment	1-11	1-5	< 0.05	< 0.4	< 0.3	< 0.2	7-14

**A.4.7 Cold Retention Basins**

Direct and removable activity surveys were taken and sediment samples were collected from the two Cold Retention Basins (1154) (sample locations CRA-1 and CRA-2 are shown on Figure A-1). Low levels of uniform direct beta contamination were identified within basin 2 (CRA-2), ranging from 1000 to 5000 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup>. These contamination levels are consistent with the contamination levels identified in 1985. (The bottom of the Cold Retention Basins could not be directly surveyed because of standing water.)

In addition to the direct surveys, sediment samples were collected from the bottom of both basins using long-handled tools. CRA-1 from basin 1 had activity levels near 20 pCi/g Cs-137, 80 pCi/g Co-60, and 6 pCi/g Eu-154, while CRA-2 from basin 2 had 5 pCi/g Cs-137 and 6 pCi/g

Co-60. These levels are much less than the levels identified during the 1985 characterization survey. The 1998 confirmatory survey confirms that the two basins are contaminated.

#### A.4.8 Reactor Building

Verification surveys were performed within the Reactor Building (1111) but outside the reactor containment vessel. These surveys consisted of direct beta and removable alpha and beta measurements at areas on floors and walls that were previously surveyed in 1985 as indicated by existing markers. Measurements were taken at all elevations (i.e., the -7.6 m [-25 ft], -4.7-m [-15-ft], main floor, and 3.7-m [+12-ft] elevations).

Activity was identified on the floors of both the -7.6-m (-25-ft) and -4.7-m (-15-ft) elevations at locations RB013 and RB056, respectively. The level of beta activity at RB013 was about 2000 to 10,000 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup>, while the level at RB056 was 45,000 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup>. No removable activity was identified. A concrete core was taken from the floor at the RB056 location, and a summary of the analytical results are presented in Table A-9.

**Table A-9. Reactor Building Floor Core Isotopic Results**

Location Sampled	Activity (pCi/g), September 1998						
	Cs-137	Co-60	Co-57	Eu-154	Eu-155	Am-241	K-40
RB056, -7.6-m (-25-ft) Level	0.2	0.1	< MDA*	< MDA	< MDA	< MDA	5.0

\* MDA = minimum detectable activity.

The 1985 characterization only identified low levels of activity on the -7.6-m (-25-ft) elevation. The levels of direct beta contamination in 1998 were higher than the levels measured in 1985. This may be a result of using more sensitive equipment during the 1998 survey. No activity was identified on the other elevations.

#### A.4.9 Reactor Office and Laboratory Building

The surveys performed within the Reactor Office and Laboratory Building (1141) consisted of direct beta and removable alpha and beta measurements on the floors at existing survey markers, where applicable. The 1985 characterization identified activity only on the second floor in labs 212 and 214. The 1985 confirmatory survey also identified activity only on the second floor; however, activity was identified in labs 207, 209, 210, 213A, and 214/215. Activity levels ranged from 5000 to 70,000 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup>. In addition, removable alpha activity was identified in labs 207, 213A, and 214/215 up to 160 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup>, and removable beta activity was identified in lab 210 up to 150 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup>.

#### A.4.10 Reactor Service Equipment Building

The Reactor Service Equipment Building (1131) was not surveyed in 1985 because the building was determined to be clean based on previous measurements. As part of the 1998

confirmatory survey, this building was surveyed for direct and removable activity in the basement, first floor, and mezzanine. No activity was identified in this building.

#### A.4.11 Fan House

The confirmatory survey of the Fan House (1132) included performing surveys on the basement floor and on the first floor. The 1985 characterization survey identified that the activity in the Fan House was confined to the basement. The 1998 confirmatory survey confirmed this. Low levels of direct beta activity were identified in the basement ranging from 1000 to 10,000 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup>. In addition, removable beta activity was found throughout the basement floor ranging from 20 to 150 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup>. No direct activity was identified on the first floor.

#### A.4.12 Waste Handling Building

The confirmatory survey of the Waste Handling Building (1133) was performed on the basement floors and on the first floor. Low levels of detectable activity were identified throughout the building ranging between 1000 and 10,000 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup>. Although these levels are slightly higher than those identified in the 1985 characterization report and the activity was distributed across a larger area, the 1998 results generally confirm the 1985 characterization results.

In addition to the direct activity, removable activity was identified throughout the building both in the basement and the first floor. Removable activity levels ranged from 50 to 600 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup>.

#### A.4.13 Service Tunnels

Surveys were performed throughout the north and east service tunnels. In general, no activity was identified in these two tunnels. However, there was an elevated measurement of 2000 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup> at the entrance to the east tunnel from the Reactor Building.

#### A.4.14 Canal F

A concrete core was taken from Canal F for isotopic analysis. A summary of the analytical results are presented in Table A-10.

**Table A-10. Canal F Concrete Core Isotopic Results**

Area Sampled	Activity (pCi/g), September 1998						
	Cs-137	Co-60	Co-57	Eu-154	Eu-155	Am-241	K-40
Canal F core	2.7	156	< MDA*	< MDA	< MDA	< MDA	5.3

\* MDA = minimum detectable activity.

#### A.4.15 1985 Petri Dish Samples

In addition to the areas surveyed as summarized in Sections A.4.1 through A.4.14, NASA provided several petri dish samples that were collected from sumps during the 1985 characterization effort. A summary of the gamma isotopic analyses is provided in Table A-11. Isotopic analyses from the 1985 characterization were not available for comparison.

**Table A-11. 1985 Petri Dish Samples Isotopic Results**

Area Sampled	Activity (pCi/g), September 1998						
	Cs-137	Co-60	Co-57	Eu-154	Eu-155	Am-241	K-40
Fan House sump	13,923	7,707	< 8.36	< 60.6	< 27.9	< 16.9	< 202
Reactor decontamination sump	35.3	9.7	< 0.38	< 3.43	< 2.11	< 1.60	< 18.6
Reactor hot sump	379	183	< 1.35	< 5.99	< 5.05	< 4.52	< 34.8
Waste Handling Building Laundry Sump	348,340	35,732	< 40.9	< 3870	< 1600	< 1200	< 7600
Containment vessel sump	119	240	< 3.16	< 19.8	< 3.85	< 2.97	< 25.3

#### A.5 Conclusions

In general, the results of the 1998 confirmatory survey confirmed the contaminated and uncontaminated areas identified during the 1985 characterization survey. The confirmatory survey did identify a couple of additional contaminated areas: labs 207, 209, 210, and 213A in the Reactor Office and Laboratory Building (1141); an area of contamination on the -4.7-m (-15-ft) elevation in the Reactor Building (1111); and the PBRF pavement near the entrance to the Reactor Building. A greater depth of contamination was identified within the Emergency Retention Basin during the 1998 confirmatory survey than in 1985, but could be a result of contamination migration over the last 10 to 15 years and using more sensitive counting equipment.

The results from the 1985 and 1998 characterization surveys were analyzed to determine the distribution of radionuclides. The gamma characterization information from the 1998 survey shows that the dominant gamma sources are Cs-137 and Co-60. Other gamma-emitting nuclides are only small contributors (less than 1 percent). At all PBRF areas (e.g., environmental contamination, sumps, floor in the Reactor Building) except the single sample taken from Canal F, the gamma activity is dominated by Cs-137. In the 15 samples taken throughout the PBRF (not including Canal F), the percentage of gamma activity because of Cs-137 ranged from 64 to 100 percent, with an average of 79 percent. (In Canal F, the activity is dominated by Co-60 rather than Cs-137, which is consistent with the history of no fuel leakage.)

**APPENDIX B**  
**DERIVATION OF  $\chi/Q$**

## APPENDIX B

### DERIVATION OF $\chi/Q$

In the accident analysis presented in Section 3.3, the quantity  $\chi/Q$  is used to express the dilution of the released effluent as it travels 0.8 km (0.5 mi) to the site boundary.  $\chi/Q$  is calculated using the well-established formula for Gaussian Dispersion, which is applicable when the effluent is released at such a rate that it does not perturb the existing pattern of turbulent eddies in the atmosphere. This is the expected case for small releases such as are evaluated in Section 3.3 of the decommissioning plan.  $\chi/Q$  was calculated using the formula:

$$\frac{\chi}{Q} = \frac{1}{\pi\sigma_y\sigma_z u} \quad (\text{B-1})$$

where:

$\Phi_y$  = the crosswind standard deviation (meters)

$\Phi_z$  = the vertical standard deviation (meters)

$u$  = the windspeed (meters/second) measured at a height of 10 meters.

Equation B-1 is valid for a ground-level release, which is the most conservative case when dry deposition is neglected, as was done for the accident analysis in Section 3.3.

In NRC's Accident Analysis Handbook (SAIC 1998), the NRC has published the following standard deviations as a function of distance,  $d$  (in meters) downwind in severe, category F meteorological conditions:

$$\sigma_z = \frac{0.016d}{(1+0.0003d)} \quad (\text{B-2})$$

$$\sigma_y = \frac{0.04d}{\sqrt{1+0.0001d}} \quad (\text{B-3})$$

These parameters are generally regarded as being conservative.

Using  $d = 800$  meters in Equations B-2 and B-3 gives  $\Phi_z = 10.32$  meters and  $\Phi_y = 30.79$  meters. Using these values of  $\Phi_z$  and  $\Phi_y$  and a windspeed,  $u$ , of 2 m/s, Equation B-1 yields

$$\frac{\chi}{Q} = \frac{1}{\pi(30.79 \text{ m})(10.32 \text{ m})(2)} = 5 \times 10^{-4} \text{ sec/m}^3$$

**APPENDIX C**

**SAMPLE ALARA CALCULATION FOR THE  
EMERGENCY RETENTION BASIN**

## APPENDIX C

### SAMPLE ALARA CALCULATION FOR THE EMERGENCY RETENTION BASIN

This appendix gives an example of how an as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA) analysis was conducted for the Emergency Retention Basin at the Plum Brook Reactor Facility (PBRF). This analysis uses the three steps of the ALARA methodology described in Section 2.2.3.2 of the decommissioning plan. As noted in Section 2.2.3.1 of the plan, a resident farmer scenario was postulated for the Emergency Retention Basin because the primary exposure pathway is contaminated soil. The dose to an individual resident farmer was calculated using the dose assessment methods described in Section 2.2.3.1 of the plan. The postulated actions at the Emergency Retention Basin include removal of contaminated surface soil from 0 to 10 cm (0 to 4 in.) below the surface, followed by selected removal of contaminated surface soil from a depth of 10 to 15 cm (4 to 6 in.) below the surface.

The spreadsheet in Table C-1 summarizes the ALARA analysis calculations for the Emergency Retention Basin. Column A gives the year after the contaminated soil has been removed. The benefit of the averted population dose is calculated in columns B through K. Columns B and C give the discount rate and discount factor, respectively, used in the calculation.

The annual individual dose resulting from the existing condition (i.e., not removing contaminated soil in the Emergency Retention Basin) is given in column D. Column E gives the estimated annual individual dose after the contaminated soil has been removed. Using the RESRAD code (Yu et al. 1993), a set of points (year, individual dose) were calculated assuming the resident farmer scenario for both the leave-as-is and after soil removal conditions. Each set of points was fitted with an exponential curve of the form  $y = a \times e^{bt}$ , where  $y$  is the dose in millirem per year,  $a$  and  $b$  are constants, and  $t$  is the specific year after the action would be completed (refer to Figures C-1 and C-2). The values for  $a$  and  $b$  for each equation are shown in rows 9 and 10 of Table C-1. The equation for the exponential curve was used to calculate the individual doses by year in columns D and E.

The contaminated area (column G, row 10) multiplied by the population density from Draft Regulatory Guide DG-4006 (NRC 1998) for land (column G, row 11) gives the number of people that would be exposed to residual contamination (column G, row 13). The annual individual doses in columns D and E were then multiplied by the population density to convert the individual dose to an annual population dose in columns F and G. The annual population dose resulting from existing conditions is given in column F; the annual population dose after the action has been implemented is given in column G.

The benefit of averted population dose is calculated in column H (value in column F – value in column G). Following the methodology described in Section 2.2.3.2, this benefit was multiplied by \$2000/person-rem to convert it to a monetary equivalent (shown in column I).

**Table C-1. Refined ALARA Analysis: Removal of Contaminated Soils from the Emergency Retention Basin**

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	
1	<b>ALARA Analysis for: Removal of contaminated soil from the Emergency Retention Basin</b>											
2	<b>Individual scenario: Resident farmer</b>											
3												
4	Dose (person-rem) Cost Equivalent (\$)			<b>\$2,000</b>								
5												
6												
7				a= 154		10.938		<b><i>CALCULATION OF BENEFITS</i></b>				
8				b= -0.0396		-0.041		area (sq.m) =		8129		<b>Total Benefit</b>
9				y=a*exp(b*t)		popl density/sq.m=		0.0004		(land)		
10	first 100 yrs		7%									
11	after 100 yrs		3%				# people =		3.2516			
12	Year	Discount rate (%)	Discount factor	Annual individual dose from existing conditions (mrem/yr)	Annual individual dose from final conditions after action is implemented (mrem/yr)	Annual population dose from existing conditions (person-rem)	Annual population dose from final conditions after action is implemented (person-rem)	Annual benefit of population averted dose (person-rem)	Annual monetary equivalent of benefit of averted population dose	Annual present worth of benefit of averted population dose	Cumulative present worth of benefit of averted population dose	
13	0	7%	1.00E+00	1.68E+02	1.18E+01	5.47E-01	3.84E-02	5.08E-01	\$1,016	\$1,016	\$1,016	
14	1	7%	9.30E-01	1.57E+02	1.10E+01	5.11E-01	3.58E-02	4.75E-01	\$949	\$883	\$1,899	
15	2	7%	8.65E-01	1.42E+02	1.01E+01	4.63E-01	3.28E-02	4.30E-01	\$860	\$744	\$2,643	
16	3	7%	8.04E-01	1.39E+02	9.80E+00	4.52E-01	3.19E-02	4.20E-01	\$840	\$676	\$3,319	
17	4	7%	7.48E-01	1.31E+02	9.28E+00	4.27E-01	3.02E-02	3.97E-01	\$794	\$594	\$3,913	
18	5	7%	6.96E-01	1.26E+02	8.91E+00	4.11E-01	2.90E-02	3.82E-01	\$764	\$531	\$4,444	
19	6	7%	6.47E-01	1.21E+02	8.55E+00	3.95E-01	2.78E-02	3.67E-01	\$734	\$475	\$4,919	
20	7	7%	6.02E-01	1.17E+02	8.21E+00	3.80E-01	2.67E-02	3.53E-01	\$706	\$425	\$5,344	
21	8	7%	5.60E-01	1.12E+02	7.88E+00	3.65E-01	2.56E-02	3.39E-01	\$678	\$380	\$5,723	
22	9	7%	5.20E-01	1.08E+02	7.56E+00	3.51E-01	2.46E-02	3.26E-01	\$652	\$339	\$6,063	
23	10	7%	4.84E-01	1.04E+02	7.26E+00	3.37E-01	2.36E-02	3.13E-01	\$627	\$303	\$6,366	
24	11	7%	4.50E-01	9.96E+01	6.97E+00	3.24E-01	2.27E-02	3.01E-01	\$603	\$271	\$6,637	
25	12	7%	4.19E-01	9.58E+01	6.69E+00	3.11E-01	2.17E-02	2.90E-01	\$579	\$242	\$6,880	
26	13	7%	3.89E-01	9.20E+01	6.42E+00	2.99E-01	2.09E-02	2.78E-01	\$557	\$217	\$7,097	
27	14	7%	3.62E-01	8.85E+01	6.16E+00	2.88E-01	2.00E-02	2.68E-01	\$535	\$194	\$7,290	
28	15	7%	3.37E-01	8.50E+01	5.91E+00	2.76E-01	1.92E-02	2.57E-01	\$514	\$173	\$7,464	

**Table C-1. Refined ALARA Analysis: Removal of Contaminated Soils from the Emergency Retention Basin**

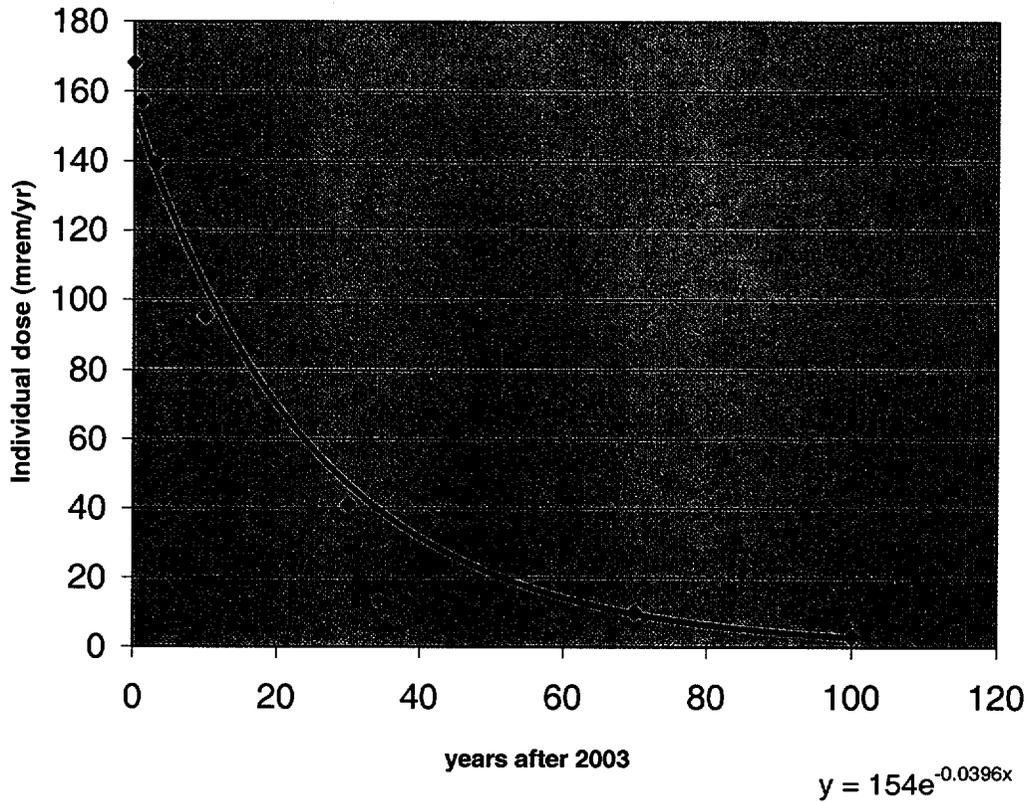
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1	<b>ALARA Analysis for: Removal of contaminated soil from the Emergency Retention Basin</b>										
2	<b>Individual scenario: Resident farmer</b>										
3											
4	Dose (person-rem) Cost Equivalent (\$)		<b>\$2,000</b>								
5											
6											
7			a= 154		10.938		<b><i>CALCULATION OF BENEFITS</i></b>				
8			b= -0.0396		-0.041		area (sq.m) =		8129		<b>Total Benefit</b>
9			y=a*exp(b*t)		popl density/sq.m=		0.0004		(land)		
10	first 100 yrs		7%								
11	after 100 yrs		3%				# people =		3.2516		
12	Year	Discount rate (%)	Discount factor	Annual individual dose from existing conditions (mrem/yr)	Annual individual final dose conditions after action is implemented (mrem/yr)	Annual population dose from existing conditions (person-rem)	Annual population final dose conditions after action is implemented (person-rem)	Annual benefit of averted population dose (person-rem)	Annual monetary equivalent of the benefit of averted population dose	Annual present worth of benefit of averted population dose	Cumulative present worth of benefit of averted population dose
13	0	7%	1.00E+00	1.68E+02	1.18E+01	5.47E-01	3.84E-02	5.08E-01	\$1,016	\$1,016	\$1,016
14	1	7%	9.30E-01	1.57E+02	1.10E+01	5.11E-01	3.58E-02	4.75E-01	\$949	\$883	\$1,899
15	2	7%	8.65E-01	1.42E+02	1.01E+01	4.63E-01	3.28E-02	4.30E-01	\$860	\$744	\$2,643
16	3	7%	8.04E-01	1.39E+02	9.80E+00	4.52E-01	3.19E-02	4.20E-01	\$840	\$676	\$3,319
17	4	7%	7.48E-01	1.31E+02	9.28E+00	4.27E-01	3.02E-02	3.97E-01	\$794	\$594	\$3,913
18	5	7%	6.96E-01	1.26E+02	8.91E+00	4.11E-01	2.90E-02	3.82E-01	\$764	\$531	\$4,444
19	6	7%	6.47E-01	1.21E+02	8.55E+00	3.95E-01	2.78E-02	3.67E-01	\$734	\$475	\$4,919
20	7	7%	6.02E-01	1.17E+02	8.21E+00	3.80E-01	2.67E-02	3.53E-01	\$706	\$425	\$5,344
21	8	7%	5.60E-01	1.12E+02	7.88E+00	3.65E-01	2.56E-02	3.39E-01	\$678	\$380	\$5,723
22	9	7%	5.20E-01	1.08E+02	7.56E+00	3.51E-01	2.46E-02	3.26E-01	\$652	\$339	\$6,063
23	10	7%	4.84E-01	1.04E+02	7.26E+00	3.37E-01	2.36E-02	3.13E-01	\$627	\$303	\$6,366
24	11	7%	4.50E-01	9.96E+01	6.97E+00	3.24E-01	2.27E-02	3.01E-01	\$603	\$271	\$6,637
25	12	7%	4.19E-01	9.58E+01	6.69E+00	3.11E-01	2.17E-02	2.90E-01	\$579	\$242	\$6,880
26	13	7%	3.89E-01	9.20E+01	6.42E+00	2.99E-01	2.09E-02	2.78E-01	\$557	\$217	\$7,097
27	14	7%	3.62E-01	8.85E+01	6.16E+00	2.88E-01	2.00E-02	2.68E-01	\$535	\$194	\$7,290
28	15	7%	3.37E-01	8.50E+01	5.91E+00	2.76E-01	1.92E-02	2.57E-01	\$514	\$173	\$7,464

Table C-1. Refined ALARA Analysis: Removal of Contaminated Soils from the Emergency Retention Basin (Continued)

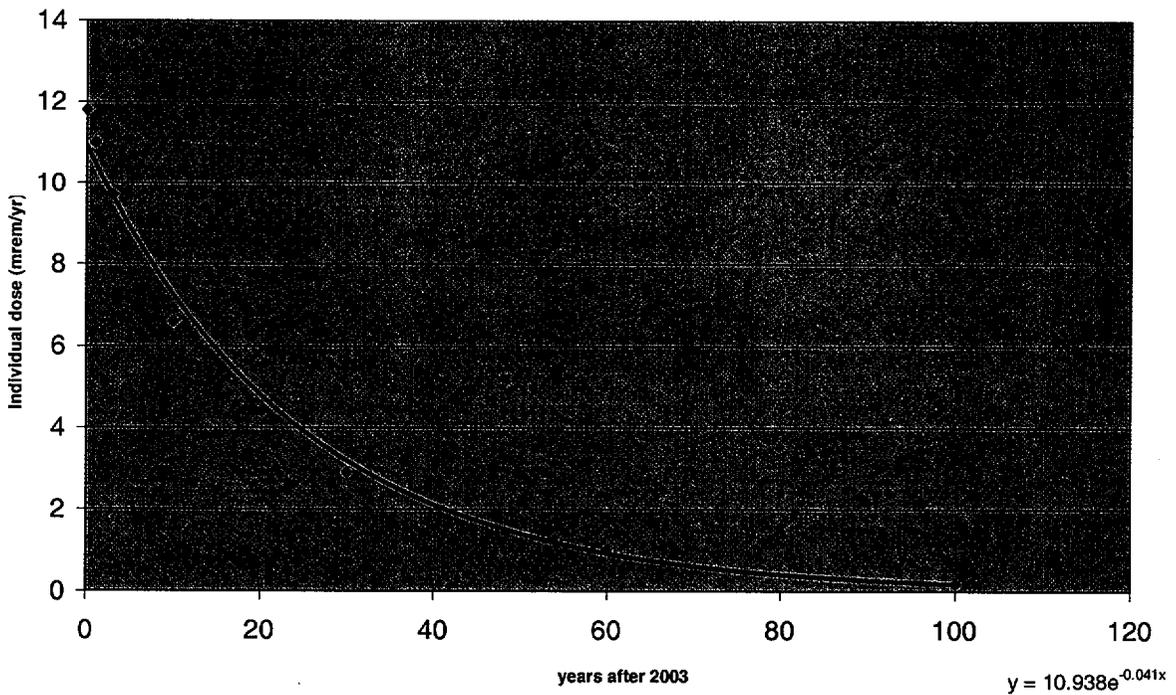
	L	M	N	O	P
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9	<b><i>CALCULATION OF COSTS</i></b>			<b><i>COMPARISON</i></b>	
10			<b>Total Cost</b>		<b>Benefit - Costs</b>
11			<b>\$1,859,000</b>		<b>(\$1,850,076)</b>
12					
13					
14	Implement. Cost	Annual present worth of cost of impl. the action (\$)	Cumulative present worth of cost of impl. the action (\$)	Annual present worth of benefits - costs	Cumulative present worth of benefits - costs
15	<b>\$1,859,000</b>	\$1,859,000	\$1,859,000	(\$1,857,984)	(\$1,857,984)
16	\$0	\$0	\$1,859,000	\$883	(\$1,857,101)
17	\$0	\$0	\$1,859,000	\$744	(\$1,856,357)
18	\$0	\$0	\$1,859,000	\$676	(\$1,855,681)
19	\$0	\$0	\$1,859,000	\$594	(\$1,855,087)
20	\$0	\$0	\$1,859,000	\$531	(\$1,854,556)
21	\$0	\$0	\$1,859,000	\$475	(\$1,854,081)
22	\$0	\$0	\$1,859,000	\$425	(\$1,853,656)
23	\$0	\$0	\$1,859,000	\$380	(\$1,853,277)
24	\$0	\$0	\$1,859,000	\$339	(\$1,852,937)
25	\$0	\$0	\$1,859,000	\$303	(\$1,852,634)
26	\$0	\$0	\$1,859,000	\$271	(\$1,852,363)
27	\$0	\$0	\$1,859,000	\$242	(\$1,852,120)
28	\$0	\$0	\$1,859,000	\$217	(\$1,851,903)

**Table C-1. Refined ALARA Analysis: Removal of Contaminated Soils from the Emergency Retention Basin (Continued)**

	L	M	N	O	P
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9	<i><b>CALCULATION OF COSTS</b></i>			<i><b>COMPARISON</b></i>	
10			<b>Total Cost</b>		<b>Benefit - Costs</b>
11			<b>\$1,859,000</b>		<b>(\$1,850,076)</b>
12					
13					
14	Implement. Cost	Annual present worth of cost of impl. the action (\$)	Cumulative present worth of cost of impl. the action (\$)	Annual present worth of benefits - costs	Cumulative present worth of benefits - costs
15	<b>\$1,859,000</b>	\$1,859,000	\$1,859,000	(\$1,857,984)	(\$1,857,984)
16	\$0	\$0	\$1,859,000	\$883	(\$1,857,101)
17	\$0	\$0	\$1,859,000	\$744	(\$1,856,357)
18	\$0	\$0	\$1,859,000	\$676	(\$1,855,681)
19	\$0	\$0	\$1,859,000	\$594	(\$1,855,087)
20	\$0	\$0	\$1,859,000	\$531	(\$1,854,556)
21	\$0	\$0	\$1,859,000	\$475	(\$1,854,081)
22	\$0	\$0	\$1,859,000	\$425	(\$1,853,656)
23	\$0	\$0	\$1,859,000	\$380	(\$1,853,277)
24	\$0	\$0	\$1,859,000	\$339	(\$1,852,937)
25	\$0	\$0	\$1,859,000	\$303	(\$1,852,634)
26	\$0	\$0	\$1,859,000	\$271	(\$1,852,363)
27	\$0	\$0	\$1,859,000	\$242	(\$1,852,120)
28	\$0	\$0	\$1,859,000	\$217	(\$1,851,903)



**Figure C-1. Individual Dose from Emergency Retention Basin If Left As Is**



**Figure C-2. Individual Dose from Emergency Retention Basin After Remediation**

The present worth value of the benefit was then calculated by multiplying the monetary equivalent (column I) by a discount rate. Discount rates of 7% were applied for the first 100 years and a discount rate of 3% applied thereafter, consistent with the guidance in Draft Regulatory Guide DG-4006 (NRC 1998) (column B). The discount factor was calculated by year (column C) using Equation C-1:

$$\text{Discount factor}_{\text{year } n+1} = \text{Discount factor}_{\text{year } n} \times (1 - \text{Discount rate}_{\text{year } n+1}). \quad (\text{C-1})$$

The annual present worth of the benefit (column J) was calculated by multiplying the annual monetary equivalent (column I) by the annual discount factor (column C). The cumulative present worth (column K) is the sum of the annual present worth (column J). Column K, row 11 shows that the present worth of the cumulative benefit over 1000 years is \$8,924.

The cost of implementing the action was then evaluated. Scoping calculations indicated that the cost equivalent of occupational dose and fatalities and population dose are very small contributors (much less than 1 percent) to the overall cost. Therefore, these costs were ignored for this calculation. The implementation cost for removing contaminated soil at the Emergency Retention Basin is shown in column L, row 15. The implementation cost (column L, row 15) was multiplied by the annual discount factors (column C) to calculate an annual present worth (column M). The annual present worth was then summed to calculate a cumulative present worth in dollars (column N). Because the action would occur in 1 year, there are no additional costs after the first year.

The total benefit and total cost were then compared (columns K and N, respectively). The total benefit of \$8,924 is 3 orders of magnitude less than the cost of \$1,859,000. The annual present worth of benefits minus the cost (column O) is calculated by subtracting column N from column K. The cumulative value of the benefit minus the cost (\$1,850,076) in column P indicates the costs greatly exceed the benefit. Therefore, the action of removing the contaminated soil from the Emergency Retention Basin to meet the residual dose criteria would, in the process, comply with the ALARA requirement.

#### References:

- NRC (U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission), 1998. Draft Regulatory Guide DG-4006, "Demonstrating Compliance with the Radiological Criteria for License Termination," August.
- Yu, C., A.J. Zielen, J.J. Cheng, Y.C. Yuan, L.G. Jones, D.J. LePoire, Y.Y. Wang, C.O. Louriero, E. Gnanapragasam, E. Faillace, A. Wallo, W.A. Williams, and H. Peterson, 1993. "Manual for Implementing Residual Radioactive Material Guidelines Using RESRAD, Version 5.0," ANL/EAD/LD-2, Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Illinois, September.