

September 8, 2000

ALL AGREEMENT STATES

MINNESOTA, OKLAHOMA, PENNSYLVANIA, WISCONSIN

TECHNICAL INFORMATION: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION TO CLARIFY THE CRITERIA FOR USING SCREENING VALUES TO DEMONSTRATE COMPLIANCE WITH THE FINAL RULE ON RADIOLOGICAL CRITERIA FOR LICENSE TERMINATION AND NOTICE OF A PUBLIC WORKSHOP TO DISCUSS CURRENT ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH THE DECOMMISSIONING OF NUCLEAR FACILITIES (STP-00-073)

Supplemental information to clarify the criteria for using screening values to demonstrate compliance with the NRC's Final Rule on Radiological Criteria for License Termination (LTR) has been published in the Federal Register Notice (FRN) provided as Enclosure 1. Questions on this information can be directed to the contact listed in the FRN.

A second FRN, provided as Enclosure 2, announces a Public Workshop to discuss NRC's current process for reviewing information supporting the decommissioning of nuclear facilities and to obtain perspectives from interested stakeholders. The workshop will be conducted November 8-9, 2000 at the NRC Headquarters. Questions on the workshop can be directed to the contact listed in the FRN.

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact me on (301) 415-2326 or the individual named below.

POINT OF CONTACT: Thomas O'Brien
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/RA/

Frederick C. Combs, Deputy Director
Office of State and Tribal Programs

Enclosures:
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STP- A-4

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Use of Screening Values to Demonstrate Compliance With the Final Rule on Radiological Criteria for License Termination

Purpose: This notice provides supplemental information to clarify the criteria for using screening values to demonstrate compliance with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) Final Rule on Radiological Criteria for License Termination (License Termination Rule (LTR)) which was issued on July 21, 1997, (62 FR 39058).

Background: Acceptable license termination screening values of common radionuclides for building surface contamination were published in the Federal Register on November 18, 1998 (63 FR 64132). Screening values of common radionuclides for surface soil contamination were published in the Federal Register on December 7, 1999 (64 FR 68395). As discussed in these notices, NRC's DandD computer code provides a method for calculating screening values for radionuclides in soil, and screening values for contamination on building surfaces. NRC used the DandD methodology to derive the building surface contamination screening values in Table 1 of the November 18, 1998, notice and the surface soil contamination screening values in Table 3 of the December 7, 1999, notice. These screening values correspond to levels of radionuclide contamination that would be deemed in compliance with the unrestricted use dose limit in 10 CFR 20.1402 (i.e., 0.25 milliSievert/year, (25 millirem/year)). The values correspond to screening "derived concentration guidelines" (DCGLs) for each specific radionuclide based on the methodology described in NRC's draft Regulatory Guide "Demonstrating Compliance with the Radiological Criteria for License Termination" (DG-4006). After these screening values were published, several questions arose concerning conditions or criteria under which the screening values would apply. Criteria for determining the applicability of these screening values is provided in the following section.

Supplementary Information: Sites with surface soil contamination levels below those listed in Table 3 of the December 7, 1999, notice will be deemed acceptable for release for unrestricted use provided that:

1. Residual radioactivity has been reduced to levels that are "as low as is reasonably achievable" (ALARA);
2. The residual radioactivity is contained in the top layer of the surface soil (i.e., a thickness of approximately 15 centimeters);
3. The unsaturated zone and the groundwater are initially free of radiological contamination; and
4. The vertical saturated hydraulic conductivity at the specific site is greater than the infiltration rate. (Refer to NUREG/CR-5512, Vol. 1, "Residual Radioactive Contamination from Decommissioning,

Technical Basis for Translating Contamination Levels to Annual Total Effective Dose Equivalent, Final Report, October 1992" for additional information.) Buildings with surface contamination levels below those listed in Table 1 of the November 18, 1998, notice will be deemed acceptable for release for unrestricted use provided that:

1. Residual radioactivity has been reduced to levels that are ALARA;
2. The residual radioactivity is contained in the top layer of the building surface (i.e., there is no volumetric contamination);
3. The fraction of removable surface contamination does not exceed 0.1. (For cases when the fraction of removable contamination is undetermined or higher than 0.1, users may assume, for screening purposes, that 100 percent of the surface contamination is removable, and therefore the screening values should be decreased by a factor of 10.)

For radionuclides not listed in the Tables 1 and 3, the latest version of the DandD code may be used, without modification of the default values, to derive screening values. However, because the current version of DandD (i.e., version 1) is overly conservative, and DandD version 2 is under development, NUREG/CR-5512, Vol. 3, "Residual Radioactive Contamination From Decommissioning, Parameter Analysis, Draft Report for Comment, October 1999," may be used to determine acceptable screening values. Specifically, Table 5.19 (using a $P_{crit} = 0.90$) may be used for building surface contamination screening values and Table 6.91 (using a $P_{crit} = 0.10$) may be used for surface soil screening values.

For site-specific analyses, licensees may use models other than DandD to demonstrate compliance with the LTR provided they can demonstrate that the model and parameters used in that model are appropriate for the site.

For mixtures of radionuclides in soil or on building surfaces, the "sum of fractions" rule applies (see 10 CFR Part 20, Appendix B, Note 4).

The NRC staff intends to include Tables 1 and 3 and these criteria governing their use in the Standard Review Plan for decommissioning. Comments on this approach may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this notice to the Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

For further information: Contact Dr. Rateb (Boby) Abu-Eid, Environmental and Performance Assessment Branch, Division of Waste Management, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001. Telephone: (301) 415-5811; fax: (301) 415-5398; or email: bae@nrc.gov.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 7th day of June 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

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

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Public Workshop To Discuss Current Issues Associated With the Decommissioning of Nuclear Facilities

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

ACTION: Notice of a public workshop to discuss current issues associated with the decommissioning of nuclear facilities.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a Public Workshop to discuss current issues associated with the decommissioning of nuclear facilities. The goal of the workshop will be to provide a forum for NRC staff to discuss, with nuclear industry and other interested stakeholders, NRC's process, and guidance, for developing and evaluating decommissioning plans (DPs) and license termination plans (LTPs), current issues associated with the decommissioning of nuclear facilities and to identify areas and strategies for improving the decommissioning process.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION: On July 21, 1997, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) published the final rule on Radiological Criteria for License Termination (the License Termination Rule or LTR) as Subpart E to 10 CFR Part 20. NRC regulations require that materials licensees submit DPs to support the decommissioning of its facility if it is required by license condition, or if the procedures and activities necessary to carry out the decommissioning have not been approved by NRC and these procedures could increase the potential health and safety impacts to the workers or the public. NRC regulations also require that reactor licensees submit Post-shutdown Decommissioning Activities Reports and LTPs to support the decommissioning of nuclear power facilities.

Since the promulgation of the LTR, NRC staff has been developing guidance to assist both regulators and the regulated community in complying with the LTR. To facilitate early and continuing input from the regulated community and other stakeholders on this guidance, NRC held several workshops in 1998, 1999, and in 2000 on various technical issues associated with the decommissioning of nuclear facilities. As part of our continuing efforts to involve the regulated community and other stakeholders in our decommissioning program, we will hold a workshop November 8-9, 2000, at the Commission's Headquarters building in Rockville, Maryland to discuss our current process for reviewing information supporting the decommissioning of nuclear facilities and to obtain perspectives from interested stakeholders on the manner in which we are implementing the LTR.

The workshop will be held at the NRC Headquarters, in the Auditorium of Two White Flint North Building at 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland. This workshop will be open to the public and

registration will be held from 7:45 to 8:30 a.m. on the first day of the workshop, November 8, 2000, at the entrance of the Auditorium. There will not be pre-registration. The workshop will run from 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. on both days. Each day will feature presentations from NRC headquarters and regional staff and roundtable discussion on current issues in decommissioning. In addition, we plan to have the workshop transcribed, and the transcripts, and any material presented at the workshop, will be posted on the NRC's Website.

NRC strongly encourages all interested stakeholders to attend and participate in this workshop, as it will offer a unique opportunity to provide the NRC staff and the nuclear power industry with insights, perspectives, and information that stakeholders feel is important for the NRC staff to consider as it seeks ways to improve our decommissioning program.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dominick A. Orlando, Decommissioning Branch, Division of Waste Management, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, at (301) 415-6749.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 3rd day of August, 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Larry W. Camper,
Chief, Decommissioning Branch, Division of Waste Management, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.