



No objection. See
attached comments.

Edward McGaffigan, Jr.
8/16/00

POLICY ISSUE

(NEGATIVE CONSENT)

August 11, 2000

SECY-00-0173

FOR: The Commissioners

FROM: William D. Travers
Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT: REMOVAL OF THE WATERTOWN MALL AREA FROM THE SITE
DECOMMISSIONING MANAGEMENT PLAN

PURPOSE:

To inform the Commission that the staff plans to remove the Watertown Mall Area site, in Watertown, Massachusetts, from the Site Decommissioning Management Plan (SDMP).

BACKGROUND:

In SECY-90-121, the original SDMP, the staff identified approximately 50 sites that warranted additional oversight by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), to ensure the timely and safe remediation of residual radioactive material in excess of NRC's criteria for release and license termination. One of these sites was the Watertown Arsenal/Mall Area site, in Watertown, Massachusetts.

The site is located approximately 11 kilometers (7 miles) west of Boston, Massachusetts, along the north branch of the Charles River. In July 1997, the western portion of the site, the U.S. Army Research Laboratory (ARL), was removed from the SDMP, having met the criteria for release for unrestricted use. The Watertown Mall Area remained under SUB-238 license, the source material license for the site, and on the SDMP.

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Commissioner McGaffigan's Comments on SECY-00-0173

I have no objection to the staff proposal to remove the Watertown Mall Area from the NRC's Site Decommissioning Management Program (SDMP) recognizing that the NRC license will remain in effect for some period of time. The staff should inform the Commission of the results of the ongoing discussions among the staff, the Department of the Army, the General Services Administration (GSA) and the Army Corps of Engineers, regarding whether the GSA property should be added to the existing NRC license and the SDMP.

EMG