

US Nuclear Regulatory Commission Decommissioning Guidance and Research Initiatives

The United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is actively updating decommissioning guidance and sponsoring related research to support decommissioning of complex materials and reactor sites. Guidance improvements are related to lessons learned from review of decommissioning plans and final status surveys; as well as changes and advances in technology over time. Decommissioning guidance update topics include subsurface investigations; survey methods and instrumentation associated with hard to access locations; analysis of continuously collected data using modern data logging systems; and survey and dosimetry methods associated with discrete radioactive particles. We are also developing guidance on the use of cover systems, especially evapotranspiration covers, in site remediation and uranium mill tailings. Pacific Northwest National Laboratory's Visual Sample Plan computer code used to design and analyze data from radiological surveys is also being updated to support NRC's guidance initiatives including tools to support subsurface survey design optimization, data visualization and analysis; importation and analysis of continuously collected data; and other code improvements. Guidance updates are being conducted with the input of NRC stakeholders in the guidance development process. NRC releases its guidance documents for public comment, and has hosted a number of public meetings and technical workshops on decommissioning topics of interest to its licensees, stakeholders, agreement state and federal partners. NRC is also providing feedback to industry on development of its own guidance to provide a standard format and content specific to the decommissioning of nuclear reactors in the United States.

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