



U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's
**Decommissioning
Program**

Before (Aerial View)



After (Land View)



Decommissioning Directorate
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

What is decommissioning?

Decommissioning is the process of removing a facility or site safely from service and reducing the residual radioactivity to a level that permits release of the property.

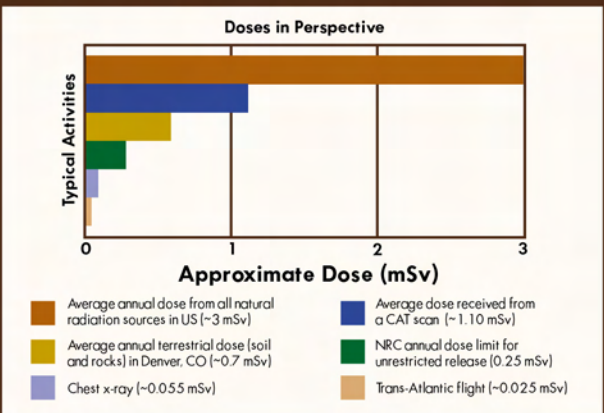
Throughout the process, steps are taken to ensure the protection of public health and safety, and the environment.

What types of facilities are regulated?

- Power reactors
- Research and test reactors
- Fuel cycle facilities
- Uranium recovery facilities
- Nuclear materials facilities

What criteria does NRC use to regulate decommissioning?

NRC's decommissioning regulations provide for release of the property for unrestricted use and, under certain conditions, for restricted use. For unrestricted use (which is the case for most of the sites regulated by the agency), NRC has established a dose limit of 0.25 mSv/year [25 mrem/year] to the individual expected to receive the greatest exposure to residual radioactivity. For restricted use, the dose to the individual can not exceed 0.25 mSv/year [25 mrem/year] with restrictions in place and can not exceed a dose of 1 mSv/year [100 mrem/year] if the restrictions fail. In addition, the final dose to the individual must be as low as reasonably achievable.



General Decommissioning Process

Materials/Fuel Cycle Facilities

Before cleanup

Licensee ceases operations and notifies NRC.

Licensee submits decommissioning plan to NRC for review.

NRC performs technical and environmental reviews of licensee plan and documents the reviews in NRC safety and environmental reports. NRC approves decommissioning plan if it is acceptable.

During cleanup

Licensee conducts cleanup activities, as described in the decommissioning plan.

NRC conducts periodic inspections.

Licensee completes cleanup activities.

After cleanup

Licensee conducts final status survey and submits report.

NRC conducts confirmatory surveys and reviews licensee's report.

NRC approves final status survey report and terminates license.

Power Reactor Facilities

Before cleanup

Licensee ceases operations and notifies NRC.

Licensee submits post-shutdown decommissioning activities report for NRC's information.

Licensee waits 90 days before starting any major decommissioning activities.

During cleanup

Licensee initiates cleanup activities, as described in the post-shutdown decommissioning activities report.

Licensee submits license termination plan for review 2 years before license termination. The plan outlines remaining decommissioning activities.

NRC performs technical and environmental reviews of licensee plan and documents the reviews in NRC safety and environmental reports. NRC approves license termination plan if it is acceptable.

NRC conducts periodic inspections.

Licensee completes cleanup activities.

Before



After



Who regulates decommissioning activities?

NRC's Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS) regulates the decommissioning activities at fuel cycle facilities, uranium recovery facilities, and nuclear materials facilities. NMSS regulates the decommissioning of power reactors after certain licensing actions are completed.

NRC's Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) regulates the decommissioning of most power reactors during the early stages of decommissioning. NRR also regulates decommissioning activities at research and test reactors.

NRC regional offices execute established NRC policies and assigned programs relating to inspection, licensing, investigation, and enforcement of decommissioning activities.

Agreement States implement and enforce the regulations for decommissioning source, byproducts, and small quantities of special nuclear material at facilities and sites in their States.

How can the public participate in the decommissioning process?

The public has many opportunities to participate in the decommissioning process:

- When a power reactor licensee submits a post-shut-down decommissioning activities report (PSDAR), and subsequently when a licensee submits a license termination plan (LTP), NRC will hold a public meeting in the vicinity of the facility after each submittal.
- When a materials licensee submits a decommissioning plan (DP), NRC may hold a public meeting in the vicinity of the facility if local interest is high.
- When NRC holds a meeting with a licensee, members of the public are allowed to observe the meeting (except when the discussion involves proprietary, sensitive, safeguards, or classified information).
- The public has an opportunity to provide comments whenever a licensee submits a PSDAR, LTP, DP, or other license amendment request.
- There is an opportunity for a hearing whenever a licensee submits a request for a license amendment.
- Whenever NRC prepares an environmental impact statement (EIS), notice of availability of the draft EIS is published in the Federal Register and the draft is placed on the NRC's website for public comment.

Where can the public get more information about the decommissioning program?

The public can use any of the following resources to learn more about NRC's decommissioning program:

- www.nrc.gov/what-we-do/regulatory/decommissioning.html
- NUREG-1757, "Consolidated NMSS Decommissioning Guidance" (www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/staff/sr1757)
- Fact Sheets and Brochures (www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/fact-sheets/)
- Office of Public Affairs

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