



NRC NEWS

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NRC TO HOLD INFORMATIONAL MEETING ON FINAL DECOMMISSIONING OF BATTELLE MEMORIAL INSTITUTE'S WEST JEFFERSON SITE

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 20, in London, Ohio, to discuss the completion of decommissioning activities at Battelle Memorial Institute West Jefferson Nuclear Sciences Site located in West Jefferson, Ohio.

The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. at the Madison County Engineers Office, 825 U.S. Highway 42 Northeast, in London.

The purpose of the meeting is to inform the public of the NRC's review of Battelle's decommissioning activities and the planned termination of the license. NRC staff will be available to respond to questions or comments from the public before the close of the meeting. Periodic public meetings have been previously held in the West Jefferson area to review the status of the decommissioning activities.

Battelle Columbus Laboratories is a research facility that performed nuclear energy research including fabrication of uranium fuel elements, nuclear reactor development, nuclear fuel reprocessing, and safety studies on reactor vessels and piping.

NRC inspectors have confirmed that the criteria for releasing the West Jefferson site have been met in accordance with NRC regulations and the decommissioning plan. The NRC license for the site is expected to be terminated for public use several weeks after the public meeting.

The NRC approved Battelle's decommissioning plan in 1994. The plan outlined the process for safely removing the facilities from service and reducing residual radioactivity to a level that permits the property to be safe for public use.

Decommissioning activities at the West Jefferson facility began in 1999. They included removing contaminated material and research equipment from the site; demolishing contaminated buildings, their foundations and piping.

The NRC conducted 24 inspections to make sure that decommissioning activities at the West Jefferson site met safety regulations for the workers; that the processes for removing contamination and conducting tests to measure contamination levels were sound; and that the decommissioning activities were implemented in accordance with the decommissioning plan and the NRC regulations.

The company conducted tests to verify levels in the air, water and soil met the criteria for unrestricted release to the public established in the NRC regulations and the decommissioning plan. NRC inspectors also performed independent radiation surveys and verified the results of testing performed by Battelle during the decommissioning activities.

Battelle conducted nuclear research at two Ohio locations - the West Jefferson facility in West Jefferson and the King Avenue facility in Columbus, Ohio. The company continues to conduct nuclear research at the King Avenue facility under oversight from the Ohio Department of Health.

Additional information about decommissioning activities at the West Jefferson site can be found at: <http://www.nrc.gov/info-finder/decommissioning/complex/battelle-columbus-laboratories.html>.

Documents related to Battelle's decommissioning process can be located through the agency's online document library at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams/web-based.html>. Use docket number 07000008 as a search term.

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