



NRC NEWS

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NRC TO PROVIDE UPDATE ON DECOMMISSIONING WORK AT WINDSOR, CONN., SITE

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will conduct a public meeting on Wednesday, March 25, to update the public on decommissioning activities at a former nuclear fuel manufacturing facility in Windsor, Conn., owned by ABB, Inc.

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. at Windsor Town Hall, at 275 Broad St. in Windsor. Before the session is adjourned, members of the public will have an opportunity to pose questions and provide comments to NRC staff.

ABB, Inc. (formerly Combustion Engineering-Windsor) manufactured nuclear fuel at the site, which is bordered by Day Hill Road to the south. Facilities at the site were also used at various times to conduct and support nuclear research and development work, including the construction, testing and operation of a U.S. naval reactor. The activities began in the mid-1950s and continued until 2001. As a result of those operations, soils, buildings and equipment surfaces were contaminated with uranium and byproduct material, both of which are radioactive.

On April 7, 2003, ABB submitted a site-wide decommissioning plan to the NRC. A revised plan that included dose-modeling information was submitted on Oct. 15, 2003. Several buildings on the site were subsequently demolished and the waste materials shipped off-site to a licensed disposal facility.

Meanwhile, certain portions of the site were to be remediated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) because some radioactive contamination at the facility resulted from defense-related activities. The buildings and areas where the defense-related materials are located were used by the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission prior to the early 1960s, when the first nuclear manufacturing license was issued to Combustion Engineering.

The NRC staff has worked with the Army Corps to define a success path for the completion of remaining decommissioning activities at the site. Specifically, the NRC has accepted the Army Corps proposal for the cleanup of FUSRAP-contaminated areas of the site that also contain NRC-regulated materials. A revised Decommissioning Plan reflecting that change is currently undergoing NRC staff review. Meanwhile, some of the NRC-regulated portions of the site that have been successfully remediated have been released for unrestricted use.

Once all of the decommissioning work is completed, ABB must demonstrate to the NRC that the entire property meets the criteria for unrestricted release. In order for a site to meet that criteria, any residual radioactivity would have to be within allowable federal and state levels.

The decommissioning plan for the site is available in the NRC's electronic documents system, which can be accessed at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams/web-based.html>.

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