

West Valley Demonstration Project Communication in the Decommissioning Process Benefits & Challenges

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West Valley



- Complex decommissioning site
- Unique approach required by law

NRC Role and Responsibilities



- Atomic Energy Act
 - 10 CFR Part 50 license (in abeyance)
 - License termination
- West Valley Demonstration Project Act
 - Prescribe decommissioning criteria
 - Informal review and consultation
 - Monitor site activities
- National Environmental Policy Act

Intergovernmental Cooperation

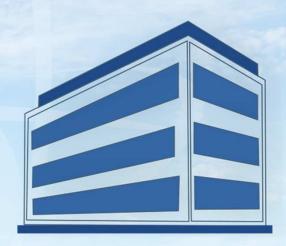


- Different State and Federal regulators
- Regulatory matrix
- DOE Core Team
- Cooperation/good government

U.S.NRC United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission Protecting People and the Environment

Share Story

- Early Core Team meeting
- Agencies:
 - DOE
 - EPA
 - NRC
 - NYSERDA, NYSDEC, NYSDOH







Rest of the Story

- After short recess, meeting and discussion resumed
- Met monthly to discuss and resolve issues
- Results:
 - Agree on proposed preferred alternative (2008)
 - Issued Draft EIS for public comment (2008)
 - Published Final EIS (2010)

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Point of Story

- Good communication essential to progress
- Attributes of good communication:
 - Agree on common goal
 - Regular meetings to exchange information, focus on relevant topics of interest or concern, identify issues
 - Address and resolve issues



Communication Benefits

- Builds trust and improves cooperation
- Identifies issues early
- Maintains momentum
- Avoids surprises
- Enhances public confidence

Communication Challenges

U.S.NRC
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Protecting People and the Environment

- Management commitment
- Invest the time & resources for effective communication
- Knowledge management for duration of decommissioning (10-20 yrs.)
- Listen and respect different viewpoints

Communication Planning Important



- Common goal
- Stakeholder needs
- Communications approach
- Agencies' responsibilities and contact point

Decommissioning Challenges Concerning People and the Environment

- Complete Phase 1 remediation
- Compete Phase 1 studies
- Make Phase 2 decisions (e.g., disposition of waste tank farm, and disposal areas)
- Resolve uncertainty regarding disposal path for HLW canisters



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