

# 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

# 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)

# 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

- 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

- Complete Phase 1 remediation
- Complete 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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