

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
(DOE) – ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
SEPARATIONS PROCESS RESEARCH UNIT
(SPRU)
DISPOSITION PROJECT**

North Field Land Area Preferred Alternatives Fact Sheet

This fact sheet describes the preferred alternative for cleanup of the SPRU North Field Land Area under DOE's SPRU Disposition Project. The public is invited to comment on the preferred alternative through mail and e-mail. Contact information for comments is provided in this fact sheet. SPRU project documents referenced in this Fact Sheet can be viewed at DOE's SPRU website, <http://www.spru.doe.gov>. The SPRU website also provides updates on project progress. SPRU documents are also available at the Niskayuna branch of the Schenectady County Public Library.

Background

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has selected the preferred alternative for disposition of the North Field Land Area associated with the former Separations Process Research Unit (SPRU) operations. SPRU was built in the late 1940s and operated through the early 1950s to conduct pilot tests for recovery of plutonium. Following cessation of SPRU operations, Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory (KAPL) converted some of Building G2 to office space, and continued using Building H2 for waste processing. In 1999, KAPL informed DOE that it had no further use for the SPRU facilities. The following year, DOE began characterizing the SPRU areas as part of the SPRU Disposition Project. In their present state, the SPRU land areas do not pose a risk to the public, on-site workers, or the environment. DOE contractor personnel continue to perform surveillance, maintenance, and capital improvement activities to maintain SPRU buildings and land areas safely. However, it is not prudent to continue surveillance and maintenance activities indefinitely.

Alternatives identified for disposition of the contaminated land areas were summarized in a December 2006 fact sheet and the Land Areas Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) document, and were presented at a public meeting on January 18, 2007. The preferred alternatives for the SPRU Lower Level Land Areas, the SPRU Upper Level Land Areas, as well as the SPRU Facilities (Buildings G2 and H2), were released for public comment on July 26, 2007. Following public comment, DOE selected the actions for these areas in the SPRU Action Memorandum which was signed September 12, 2007. Soil removal was the selected action for the Land Areas, and removal was the preferred alternative for the SPRU Facilities. Since the issuance of the Action Memorandum, DOE has hired a contractor to perform soil removal in the Lower Level Land Areas and a

second contractor to remove the SPRU Facilities and to perform soil removal in the Upper Level Land Area. Both contractors have begun work.

DOE deferred identifying or selecting a preferred alternative for the North Field Land Area. The Preferred Alternatives Fact Sheet issued in July 2006 noted that “Selection of a preferred alternative for the North Field is being deferred until KAPL completes its investigations of the non-SPRU related areas adjacent to the North Field.” DOE has received funding to conduct investigation of the non-SPRU areas adjacent to the North Field. These investigations will be conducted in 2009. Additionally, DOE-SPRU has received funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 that will allow it to accelerate actions in the North Field Land Areas from 2013-2014 to 2010-2011. In light of these developments, DOE is announcing its preferred alternative for the North Field Land Area and is requesting public comment.

North Field Land Area Alternatives

Two alternatives were considered for cleanup of the North Field Land Area (NF). Under Alternative NF-1, the “No Action” alternative, the current surveillance and maintenance program activities, including landscape maintenance and controlling access to the contaminated soil areas, would continue. The radioactive contamination would decay away over time. The estimated cost of this alternative is \$3.3 million over the next 30 years. Alternative NF-2 includes removal of approximately 5,000 cubic yards of soil exceeding cleanup goals to an average depth of two feet. Some trees and shrubs in the North Field Land Area would be removed to facilitate soil excavation. The estimated cost of Alternative NF-2 is \$15 million.

North Field Land Area Preferred Alternative

Alternative NF-2, North Field Soil Removal, is the preferred alternative for the North Field Land Areas. Alternative NF-2 best satisfies the evaluation criteria presented in the EE/CA (i.e., effectiveness, implementability, and cost). Soil removal was also the alternative most preferred by the public, as expressed during the December 22, 2006 to January 26, 2007, public comment period. Estimated duration for Alternative NF-2 is two years. Implementation of this alternative will start in 2010 and finish in 2011.

How to Comment

The public comment period will be held from July 1 through July 31, 2009.

Please comment in one of the following ways:

- 1) Mail comments to:
John Rampe, Manager
DOE SPRU Field Office
2425 River Road, SP-23
Niskayuna, NY 12309

2) E-mail comments to: william.taylor@emcbc.doe.gov.
You will receive an e-mail confirmation that your e-mail
comment was received.

Contacts

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