SM-1A DEACTIVATED NUCLEAR POWER PLANT



OVERVIEW

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District (USACE) is currently in the planning phase for the final decommissioning and dismantling of the deactivated SM-1A nuclear power plant at Fort Greely. We will use a highly skilled and experienced team of engineers, scientists and contractors dedicated to the successful and safe execution of this project.

The safety and health of the community and our workers are paramount to the success of our project. During dismantling activities, trained professionals will use proven techniques and precautions to ensure the safety of workers and the public, all in accordance with federal, state and local regulations.

HISTORY

The construction of the SM-1A at Fort Greely began in 1958 and completed in 1962 with criticality achieved on 13 March 1962. The design was based on the concept of the SM-1 reactor at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, a prototype for stationary medium-power plants ("SM"). The "1A" moniker designates it as the first field plant of its type.

It was designed to be used as an "inservice" test facility in an arctic environment with its primary mission being to supply electrical power and heating steam for the utility systems at Fort Greely. The secondary mission was to study the economics of operating a nuclear-type electrical plant.

The final shutdown was performed in March 1972. This consisted of the removal of the nuclear fuel, minor decontamination, shipment of pre-packaged radioactive waste, entombing certain reactor components, sealing the pressure vessel, and installing appropriate warning signs and monitoring devices.

FIND OUT MORE

JOIN OUR STAKEHOLDER LIST

CENAB-CC@usace.army.mil

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

www.nab.usace.army.mil/SM-1A

QUESTIONS OR FEEDBACK

CENAB-CC@usace.army.mil

SM-IA NUCLEAR POWER PLANT NOTICE THE SM-1A REACTOR PRESSURE VESSEL HAS BEEN ENTONBER WITHIN A ROOM BEHIND THIS DOOR. THIS DOOR HAS BEEN SEALED TO PREVENT ENTRY BY UNAUTHORIZED PERSONNEL AND IS NOT TO BE OPENED WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE UNITED

STATES GOVERNMENT. United states army engineer power group

COMMITMENT TO SAFETY

The safety of the community and our workers is of utmost importance to us. The facility is not an operational facility and does not have nuclear fuel or spent fuel waste stored at the facility. During the final decommissioning and dismantlement, our team of trained professionals will use proven techniques and precautions to ensure the safety of workers, the installation tenants, and the public.

Any sort of radiation release during this final decommissioning would be extremely unlikely, not only because of the nature of the materials being worked with and the safety protocols that will be in place during all work, but also because of the proven expertise and previous success of the project team.





A CENTER OF EXPERTISE

A highly skilled and experienced team led by the Corps' Radiological Health Physics Regional Center of Expertise is working closely with the Corps' Alaska District and is dedicated to the successful and safe execution of this project. This team brings decades of experience working on a broad array of radiological projects around the world, including prior reactor decommissioning projects.

In fact, this same Corps of Engineers team working on the SM-1A project just recently safely completed the decommissioning and dismantling of the Army's historic floating nuclear power plant in Texas, the STURGIS and its MH-1A reactor.

SCHEDULE/TIMELINE

This work will pose minimal risk, if any, to the surrounding community. The majority of SM-1A's remaining low-level radioactivity are activated metals and the components of the reactor system that are all secured within the walls of the facility's containment vessel.

The SM-1A team is still in the planning phase of the final decommissioning and dismantling effort. Planning will likely continue well into 2021. The team anticipates awarding a decommissioning contract in 2022 with contractors mobilizing either in late 2022 or 2023. Work is estimated to take up to five years to complete.

