SM-1A Project Update, January 18, 2019

Dear SM-1A Stakeholders,

Thank you for signing up to receive periodic updates regarding the ongoing efforts to decommission and dismantle the SM-1A deactivated nuclear power plant at Fort Greely. This is the first of what will be several stakeholder updates that we'll be sending over the course of this project.

We are still in the early planning stages of this project, but as part of our commitment to open and transparent communication, we will be sending stakeholder updates as we reach major project milestones and especially when there are opportunities for stakeholders to interact with the project team and provide feedback.

In February, members of the project team will be in Anchorage to present at a panel session for the 2019 Alaska Forum on the Environment. While our team is in Anchorage, they will be hosting an Industry Day for the contractor community. Contractors interested in more information regarding this Industry Day, including instructions on how to RSVP, can see the full official notice on FedBizOpps.gov at https://go.usa.gov/xEDBM.

We are also excited to share that the project team will again be presenting an SM-1A project update at Fort Greely's annual Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting this April. This year's meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 24, 2019 at the Delta Junction City Hall at 6pm.

The team's presentation from last year's meeting, as well as meeting minutes covering the questions and answers stemming from the presentation, are available online at Fort Greely's Installation Restoration Program site - http://fgacleanup.info/

As a reminder, the SM-1A deactivated nuclear power plant on Fort Greely has been deactivated since the early 1970s. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District - a Regional Radiological Center of Expertise – and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District are working together closely with Army Garrison Alaska to implement the SM-1A decommissioning and dismantlement.

Completed in 1962, the SM-1A nuclear reactor at Fort Greely 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 "in-service" test facility for this type of equipment 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 compared to conventional oil-fired systems in a remote area where fuel costs are high and supply lines are unusually long.

The initial dismantlement and decommissioning of the SM-1A was completed in 1972 and involved the removal of a majority of the radioactivity from the site, including the removal of the nuclear fuel and control rods, decontamination work around the facility, radioactive waste removal, entombing and sealing certain reactor components (vapor container, waste tanks, and demineralizer room), which holds the Reactor Pressure Vessel and other reactor components and installing appropriate warning signs and monitoring devices.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers conducts annual environmental monitoring to ensure the site does not pose any hazards to the surrounding installation tenants, the community, or the environment.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is in the early planning stages working to develop the various planning documents for the final decommissioning and dismantling of the facility. The team anticipates awarding a contract for the decommissioning work as early as 2022, meaning decommissioning work on site likely will not begin until 2022 or 2023 at the earliest.

We want to take this opportunity to emphasize that safety is the team's number one priority for this project. The safety and health of the installation, the local community and our workers are paramount to the success of our project. We will be using proven controls and precautions to address safety and other engineering details during all stages of the decommissioning of the SM-1A.

Just recently, the Baltimore District's expert team safely completed the decommissioning of another one of the Army's deactivated nuclear reactors – the MH-1A on the STURGIS barge in Galveston, Texas. We are excited to build on that record of success and safety as planning moves forward for the SM-1A decommissioning and dismantlement.

Additional information on the SM-1A decommissioning and dismantling project is available online at - www.nab.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental/SM-1A/

And, as always, feel free to e-mail any questions or concerns you may have to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at CENAB-CC@usace.army.mil.