

SM-1A Project Update, April 16, 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. We wanted to reach out with more details regarding opportunities for stakeholders to engage with the project team in Alaska next week.

As we shared in our last stakeholder update, we will be giving a project update and having an informational poster session immediately following the scheduled Fort Greely Restoration Advisory Board on Wednesday, April 24 at the Delta Junction City Hall (2288 Deborah Street Delta Junction, Alaska). The Restoration Advisory Board is open to members of the public and will begin at 6pm and our project update is scheduled to begin following their regular agenda.

We are also pleased to share that we have coordinated for an on-post public information session Tuesday, April 23 at the Fort Greely Community Activity Center where we will also be sharing our project update and having an informational poster session. This will allow those who live or work on post to learn more about the project and to ask questions directly with the project team. It will begin at 6:30pm with a 30 minute informational poster session with members of the project team followed by formal presentation and questions and answers beginning at 7pm.

We'd like to also thank those contractors who participated in our Industry Day in Anchorage in February. The presentation given there is available on our SM-1A project web site, along with other project information, at www.nab.usace.army.mil/SM-1A/.

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 Regional Radiological Center of Expertise based in Baltimore and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District are working closely together 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, encasing, 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.

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.