

STURGIS Project Update, September 14, 2015

Since the STURGIS arrived in Port in April, the team has kept very busy at the Malin International Shipyard. The locally-hired project team has completed all required training and mobilization efforts have been completed, including establishment of site security, project site offices and fixtures for continued environmental monitoring of the air, water, sediment and external radiation exposure. Site utilities have been established to provide all needed power both dockside and onboard the barge, including lighting for general access. Due to the extreme heat conditions, the team also installed an air conditioning unit to provide climate control for the primary work area on the barge. This ventilation system includes HEPA filtration to ensure all radiological work areas are under negative pressure during decommissioning efforts. The team has also begun abatement activities (lead and asbestos) necessary to safely perform the decommissioning activities.

As an additional safety protocol to ensure our plans going forward are appropriate, in July we completed entry into the reactor containment area to get additional radiological dose readings on some of the larger components to be removed later in the decommissioning process. These additional readings confirmed prior data used in the planning efforts. Additionally, the team completed a laser scan of the area which was used to produce a visual computer model of the reactor containment area and its components. This model is being used to support decommissioning planning, maximize our efficiency, minimize exposure times to our employees, and increase safety for all aspects of the decommissioning.

Training with the local Galveston Emergency Response services, to include, Galveston County Fire Department, Galveston County Ambulance Authority, Galveston Police Department, Galveston County Sheriff's Department, Port of Galveston Police Department, UTMB, and Customs and Border Protection has been completed. We will continue to keep our lines of communication open with these critical partners as work progresses.

The next major construction activity on site will be cutting large access hatches in the vessel. These hatches will be used later this fall or winter in order to be able to remove larger pieces off of the barge. After the hatches have been cut, low level radiological waste will begin to be removed from the barge. It will be packaged in Department of Transportation compliant containers within the containment area of the barge, lifted out of the barge, and prepared for transportation to the selected disposal facility.

Environmental monitoring has continued since her arrival in Port, and no evidence of radioactive material or increased radiation exposure from the STURGIS has been documented outside of the reactor containment area.