

STURGIS Project Update, November 13, 2015

The team working on the STURGIS recently reached a significant milestone at the Malin International Shipyard, packaging and shipping the first low level radiological waste off site for disposal.

Crews cut the first large access hatch on October 2nd on the top of the vessel, allowing for the beginning of the packaging and removal of low level radiological waste from the barge. On October 21st, crews began packaging items from the upper refueling room floor in polypropylene bulk bags which are Department of Transportation shipping compliant containers (commonly referred to as supersacks) so they could be placed into another Department of Transportation compliant container, referred to as intermodals. Once loaded into the supersacks within the vessel's containment area, the items were rigged and lifted out of the vessel where the items were loaded into intermodals and placed onto flatbed trucks to be transported to Waste Control Specialists, the selected disposal facility. At this time, all waste shipments have been received by the disposal facility without incident. All items in the upper refueling room area will continue to be removed, packaged and shipped over the next few weeks. The next major milestone will be removal of the spent fuel storage tank by mid-December.

Safety continues to be the top priority for this project. As such, the team is consistently verifying performance of our engineering controls, conducting routine daily health and safety and radiological surveys and analyzing all collected data. Additionally, now that we are shipping radioactive waste, all appropriate radiological surveys are being performed of the items and shipment as they are prepared for shipment to ensure we are meeting the requirements of the Department of Transportation.

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.

The team has worked very diligently to get to this stage of the project. Our efforts represent a lot of detailed planning, dedicated teamwork, and the ability to handle a wide variety of challenges as we implement the project. We appreciate the continued support of our local partners and stakeholders as we carry out this project.

First Radiological Waste Shipment from STURGIS



The hatch cover was lifted and the items were removed from the upper refueling room floor. The spent fuel rod transfer cask and the spent control rod transfer cask were packaged in supersacks (white bags) and then loaded into intermodals for truck transportation to the disposal facility.

