

ISFSI was completed in January 2018. In its 2013 post-shutdown decommissioning activities report to the NRC, Duke stated that it intended to decommission the reactor under the NRC's SAFSTOR method, which allows the plant to be maintained in a safe, stable condition for up to 60 years before decommissioning is completed.

Duke said that it decided to accelerate the decommissioning process because the plant's required decommissioning trust fund is currently sufficient to remediate the plant without increasing customer bills. According to Duke, the trust fund had about \$717 million as of March 31, 2019. In the company's latest decommissioning cost estimate, submitted to the NRC in June 2018, Duke estimated that it would cost \$895.9 million to decommission the plant, including about \$95 million in spent fuel management costs and \$51.9 million in site restoration costs.

Duke said that it has cost-effectively completed the initial phase of decommissioning, placing the plant in an ideal condition to attract bidders to complete the work, adding, "This progress, coupled with increased competition in the industry, has lowered decommissioning costs, making the accelerated model financially feasible."

Crystal River-3 is located at Duke's 5,100-acre Crystal River Energy Complex on Florida's Gulf Coast about 85 miles

north of Tampa. The complex is home to the new Citrus Combined Cycle Station, two operating coal-fired units, and two retired coal-fired units. In a separate agreement, Duke has hired NorthStar Group Services to dismantle the coal-fired units, which formally retired in December 2018. The dismantling of the coal-fired units is expected to start in 2019 and to be completed in 2023.

HIGH-LEVEL WASTE

DOE expands on its new interpretation of HLW

On June 5, the Department of Energy sent a supplemental notice to the *Federal Register* that further explains its interpretation of high-level radioactive waste and reiterates its position that not all waste from the reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel is HLW.

The supplemental notice updates the DOE's *Request for Public Comment on the U.S. Department of Energy Interpretation of High-Level Radioactive Waste*, published in the October 10, 2018, *FR* (NN, Nov. 2018, p. 51), and contains the DOE's responses to the 5,555 comments it received, roughly 360 of which were distinct, unrepeatable comments. Under the

DOE's interpretation, reprocessing waste would be classified as HLW or non-HLW based on its radiological characteristics rather than its origin.

The DOE said that based on the comments it received, it revised its October 2018 interpretation to indicate that reprocessing waste may be determined to be non-HLW if the waste (1) does not exceed concentration limits for Class C low-level radioactive waste as set out in 10 CFR 61.55 and meets the performance objectives of a disposal facility, or (2) does not require disposal in a deep geologic repository and meets the performance objectives of a disposal facility as demonstrated through a performance assessment conducted in accordance with applicable requirements.

Using this interpretation, the DOE said, it will pursue new avenues for treating and removing lower-level waste that has been languishing at DOE sites, including the Hanford Site in Washington, the Savannah River Site in South Carolina, and the Idaho National Laboratory site. "DOE is going to analyze each waste stream and manage it in accordance with Nuclear Regulatory Commission standards, with the goal of getting the lower-level waste out of these states without sacrificing public safety," said DOE Under Secretary for Science Paul Dabbar.

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