

## Low-level waste

The International Atomic Energy Agency has launched an initiative to manage disused radioactive sources. The IAEA announced on Sept. 19, 2017, that it has introduced the concept of qualified technical centers for the safe and secure management of used sealed sources. Radioactive sources are used in various devices at medical, industrial, and agricultural facilities, and disused sealed radioactive sources (DSRS) make up much of the radioactive waste arising from nuclear applications. Christophe Xerri, director of the IAEA's Division of Nuclear Fuel Cycle and Waste Technology, said in a statement, "The idea behind this initiative is to increase the worldwide capability to manage DSRS by encouraging countries with well-equipped centers and trained personnel to provide technical services for the management of DSRS, within their countries and regionally."

● Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) announced on Nov. 24, 2017, that it has requested an amended timeline for its Near Surface Disposal Facility project at the Chalk River Laboratories in Ontario. CNL said that it is working with the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) to establish a revised schedule for final regulatory submittals, including the submission date for the facility's final environmental impact statement (EIS) for the low-level radioactive waste facility.

CNL submitted a draft EIS for the project to the CNSC and released it for public review in March 2017. CNL said that it has received more than 200 public comments and federal technical submissions on the draft EIS, along with requests for additional information from the CNSC. To provide time to respond to those submissions and to complete a third-party review, CNL said that the schedule for final EIS submittal and the licensing

hearing will need to be extended. According to CNL, the organization is currently responding to comments to the draft EIS and, subject to their acceptance by the CNSC, will update and finalize the EIS as set out under an amended project schedule.

CNL announced on Oct. 26, 2017, that it has decided to include only low-level radioactive waste in the facility based on comments it received on the draft EIS. CNL will continue to manage intermediate-level waste in interim storage at Chalk River until a long-term disposal solution for that waste category has been developed and approved.

## D&D

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has published a final regulatory basis in support of its proposed rulemaking for the decommissioning of commercial nuclear power reactors. Notice of the regulatory basis was published in the Nov. 27, 2017, *Federal Register*.

The decommissioning rulemaking is intended to improve regulations for reactors that are transitioning to decontamination and decommissioning, providing for a more efficient D&D process and reducing the need for exemptions from existing regulations. The NRC issued an advance notice of proposed rulemaking in November 2015, followed by a draft regulatory basis in March 2017. The NRC staff considered public comments received during both stages in preparing the final regulatory basis.

In the regulatory basis, the NRC staff concluded that there is sufficient justification to proceed with new regulations in the areas of emergency preparedness, physical security, cybersecurity, drug and alcohol testing, training requirements for certified fuel handlers, decommissioning trust funds, off-site and on-site



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