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NRC AMENDS B&W LICENSE FOR PARKS TOWNSHIP DISPOSAL AREA

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has granted a request from Babcock and Wilcox Company (B&W) to amend its nuclear materials license to require that the company submit a decommissioning plan for its Shallow Land Disposal Area in Parks Township, Pennsylvania, by December 6, 2000.

In a letter to the company, the NRC said that, although the license amendment requires the decommissioning plan to be submitted by the 2000 date, NRC urges the company to expedite the development and submission of the plan so that the decommissioning of the disposal area can proceed as soon as possible.

The NRC expects to hold periodic meetings with B&W staff while the company is developing the plan. Each meeting will be open for observation by members of the public, with an opportunity for questions at the conclusion.

The Shallow Land Disposal Area is located in Armstrong County, about 23 miles east-northeast of Pittsburgh. Until 1970, the disposal area was used by a former owner, Nuclear Materials and Equipment Corporation (NUMEC), to dispose of both radioactively contaminated wastes (primarily uranium and thorium) and non-radioactive wastes in accordance with NRC regulations in effect at that time.

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