

DOE NEWS

**Environmental Management Consolidated Business Center,
U.S. Department of Energy, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202**

**For Immediate Release
July 26, 2007**

Public Comment Period Announced on Cleanup Alternatives for SPRU Process Facilities and Land Areas Cleanup

Cincinnati -- The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today announced a 30-day public comment period on the selection of preferred cleanup alternatives for disposition of the contaminated buildings and land areas associated with the former Separations Process Research Unit (SPRU) in Niskayuna, New York.

The three preferred cleanup alternatives selected best satisfy the evaluation criteria presented in the Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) documents. The cost range for the project is \$137-419 million, and the corresponding range for the schedule end date is 2011 - 2021. DOE's 2006 estimate for the remaining cleanup effort is approximately \$217 million with a scheduled end date of 2014. The latter figures correspond to the costs published in the Engineering Evaluations and Cost Analyses published during 2006. DOE's cost estimates will become more refined as contractors are requested to provide proposals on the cleanup work effort and contracts are awarded.

The preferred alternative for cleanup of the SPRU project facilities is "Alternative 4, Removal of SPRU facilities." This includes decontamination and complete removal of Buildings G2 and H2, the Tank Farm, and the G2-H2 Tunnel and decontamination of the E1 and G1 Tunnels. The estimated cost of Alternative 4 is \$160 million. This effort would start in 2008 and the estimated completion for this alternative is 2014.

The preferred Upper Level Land Area alternative is "Alternative UL-2, Upper Level Soil Removal." This alternative would involve removing soil with contamination exceeding cleanup goals under Building H2 and the H2 Tank Farm. Confirmation sampling would be conducted in the excavated area for radioactivity and chemicals. After verifying cleanup, the excavations would be backfilled with clean backfill material and compacted. The estimated cost of Alternative UL-2 is \$8 million. Alternative UL-2 would be implemented in conjunction with the Building H2 and G2 removal, which is estimated to start in 2008 and complete during 2014.

The preferred Lower Level Land Area alternative is “Alternative LL-2, Lower Level Soil Removal”. This alternative would remove approximately 6,500 cubic yards of soil with contamination exceeding cleanup goals. Excavations would be backfilled with clean backfill material and compacted. The estimated cost of Alternative LL-2 is \$31 million, with an estimated duration of three years. Implementation of this alternative is estimated to start in 2008 and complete by 2010.

Selection of a preferred alternative for the North Field is being deferred until 2012 when additional information is available regarding the non-SPRU related areas adjacent to the North Field. At that time, North Field alternatives will be reevaluated.

The SPRU, located at Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory (KAPL), was operated from 1950 to 1953 as a pilot plant to research the REDOX and PUREX chemical processes to extract uranium and plutonium from irradiated uranium. These operations contaminated the SPRU facilities, groundwater and soils, resulting in the need to remediate the SPRU site. The SPRU site process facilities and land areas are owned by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). The nuclear facilities are currently maintained by KAPL, Inc. a subsidiary of Lockheed Martin.

The public comment period begins July 26, 2007 and ends August 25, 2007. Written comments can be submitted to Steve Feinberg, DOE SPRU Project Office, 2425 River Rd, Niskayuna, NY 12309 or by email to Anne Wickham at Anne.Wickham@emcbc.doe.gov. A “Preferred Alternatives Fact Sheet” and more information on the SPRU Project can be found at <http://www.spru.doe.gov>.

For further information, contact:
Anne Wickham, 513/246-0463
Steve Feinberg, 518-395-4580