



F-Complex Removal Action at the Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory

General FAQs

January 2023

Background

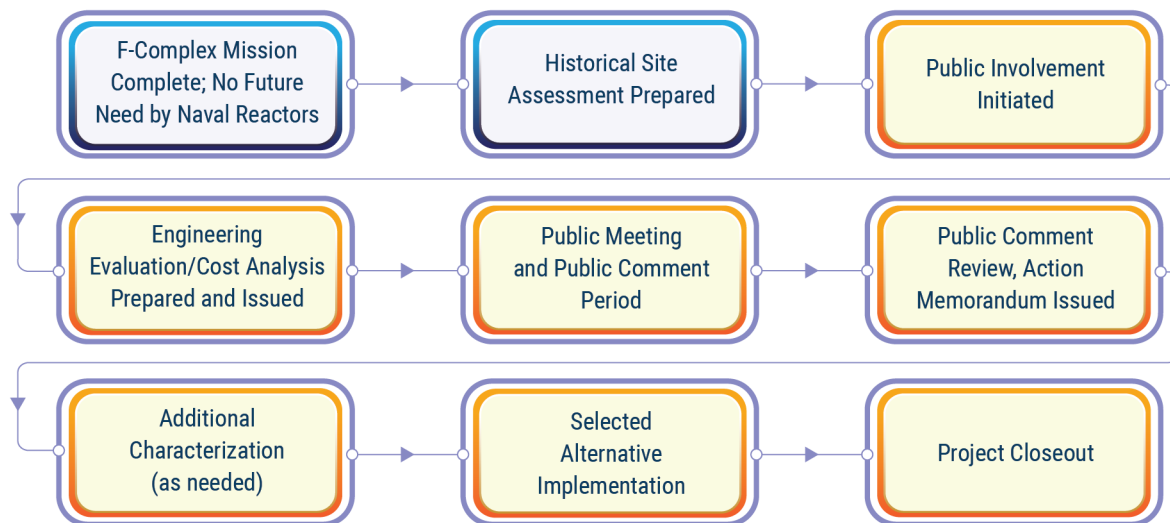
The Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Environmental Management (DOE-EM) is working in partnership with Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory (Knolls Laboratory) and its landlord, Naval Reactors, on reviewing potential removal actions involving F-Complex. This Fact Sheet contains general frequently asked questions (FAQs) about the F-Complex and the proposed alternatives.

F-Complex includes five interconnected buildings constructed between the 1950s and 1970 that have reached the end of their useful life. Over the years, F-Complex housed several research/test reactors. Three of those reactors remain; all three have been defueled and are inactive, leaving defueled assemblies. The facilities are contaminated due to their legacy operations. A decision is needed to determine an end state for the F-Complex. Public involvement is a key aspect of the decision.

DOE has prepared several documents for the removal action review. The **Historical Site Assessment (HSA)** documents the use and operational history of the facilities from their construction to the present. The **Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA)** draws on the HSA and presents three alternatives for the disposition of the F-Complex. A **Community Involvement Plan (CIP)** describes DOE’s plans for engaging with the public throughout the removal action process, up to and including implementation of the selected alternative.

Three Alternatives have been proposed:

- Alternative 1 – Continued Legacy Facility Management (the “no action” alternative)
- Alternative 2 – Cleanout of the Defueled Assemblies
- Alternative 3 – Removal of F-Complex



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KEY | Community involvement

Some practical matters

Will there be noise outside of business hours?

No. Work on F-Complex would occur within Town of Niskayuna requirements.

Will there be lights outside of business hours?

There may be lights outside of business hours simply to illuminate the work area for safety purposes. Due to the location of F-Complex well within the Knolls Laboratory and its distance from residential areas, the lighting should not be visible to residences.

How long will this take?

If Alternative 1 is chosen, it will be a continuation of present conditions and would continue for at least 30 years. If Alternative 2, cleanout, is chosen, it is estimated to take 47 months, followed by 30 years of legacy facility management. Alternative 3, if chosen, is estimated to take 53 months.

How much will it cost?

Costs range from \$17.5 million for Alternative 1 to \$68.4 million for Alternative 3.

What if we did nothing at all?

Alternative 1 proposes no change from the present approach to manage and maintain the buildings in a safe configuration.

Waste Transportation

Trucks will be needed to transport waste from the Knolls Laboratory if Alternative 2 or 3 is selected.

How big are the trucks?

The trucks will vary in size depending on the materials to be transported.

What routes will trucks take?

Exact routing is not available at this time, but the trucks will only take routes that are rated for commercial vehicles.

What do the containers look like?

That will also depend on the materials being transported. They can range from waste boxes secured to flatbed trucks, solid waste (“transfer”) trucks, and dump trucks.

How many truckloads might there be?

The number of truckloads will vary by the type of material being disposed and the type/size of the trucks available at the time they are needed.

What about the waste?

Three types of wastes are anticipated from Alternatives 2 or 3 – low level radioactive waste (LLW), hazardous waste, and solid waste (demolition debris). Hazardous or solid waste would be disposed at existing, permitted facilities. Radioactive wastes will go to existing permitted or licensed facilities outside of New York State.

Air and Water

Will there be contaminated dust that could affect the air that I breathe?

No. The facilities will be decontaminated prior to any demolition. In addition, demolition work will involve misting and other methods to keep dust under control.

Is there a potential to affect drinking water?

No. Potentially contaminated water from facility demolition will be controlled. In addition, the facility does not sit over a usable drinking water aquifer.

Miscellaneous

If you demolish the buildings, what will go there?

After DOE-EM demolishes the buildings, the footprint would be returned to the Naval Reactors program to use for mission purposes.

Can this create jobs? If so, what kind of jobs?

Implementing Alternatives 2 or 3 would have the potential to create jobs in the construction/demolition fields as well as scientific, engineering, management, and technical support.

Why are you doing this now? The buildings have not been used for a long time...is there a risk now? What has changed?

The buildings have recently ended their useful life. The risks associated with the F-Complex have been managed and maintained in a safe condition; there is no additional risk.

There are a lot of out-of-use buildings on the site—are you going to work on them, too?

The Knolls Laboratory is in active use and regularly removes buildings that are no longer needed to support mission needs.

Key Contact

Mr. Martin Krentz

Federal Project Director
U.S. Department of Energy
2425 River Road
Niskayuna, NY 12309
(518) 395-4580
martin.krentz@emcbc.doe.gov