



# Community Involvement Plan for the F-Complex at the Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory in Niskayuna, New York



December 2022



RSI-KES-DLV-TO3-003

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# **Community Involvement Plan for the F-Complex at the Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory**

December 2022

Prepared for:

U.S. Department of Energy  
Environment Management Consolidated Business Center –  
New York Project Support Office

Prepared by:



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The Department of Energy (DOE) is issuing this Community Involvement Plan (CIP) as a resource to enable meaningful community involvement throughout its investigation, selection, and implementation of proposed cleanup activities of the F-Complex at Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory. DOE is fully committed to encouraging public participation and providing opportunities for communication between DOE, the community, and interested stakeholders during the proposed activities to address the F-Complex at Knolls Laboratory. Thank you for your interest and involvement!

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## Abbreviations and Acronyms

AM	Action Memorandum	NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
AR	Administrative Record	NESHAP	National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act	NR	Office of Naval Reactors
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations	NTCRA	Non-Time Critical Removal Action
CIP	Community Involvement Plan	NY	New York
DOE	U.S. Department of Energy	NYSDEC	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
EE/CA	Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis	RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	SWMU	Solid Waste Management Unit
FPD	Federal Project Director	U.S.	United States
GE	General Electric		
HSA	Historical Site Assessment		
IR	Information Repository		
NCP	National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan		

# Introduction

The Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory is a DOE Naval Reactors site located in Niskayuna, NY. The principal function of the Knolls Laboratory is research and development in the design of naval nuclear propulsion plants for use in submarines and aircraft carriers. The F-Complex is a group of five interconnected buildings built between 1951 and 1970 that supported research reactors and the storage of nuclear materials. The buildings are no longer in use and have reached the end of their useful life.

This Community Involvement Plan (CIP) describes how you, members of the community, can participate in the decision-making process regarding the outcome for the F-Complex at Knolls Laboratory.

This CIP has been prepared in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) 42 United States Code subsection 9601 et. seq. and the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP) (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 300) and serves as a guide for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to engage and inform interested parties in F-Complex environmental and cleanup activities. The CIP is a “living” document and will be updated or revised, as appropriate.

## CIP Purpose and Objectives

The CIP has two key objectives:

(1) To disseminate information to the public in a timely, accurate, meaningful, and understandable manner; and

(2) To create opportunities—and ensure the community understands those opportunities—for active participation, enabling interested persons to provide comments that can be used by the DOE project team for planning and decision-making.

A CIP is a community-specific plan for interacting with a community during the CERCLA process steps, such as environmental review and characterization, and any resulting activities that may take place in order to both assess and increase the level of community interest as well as to identify community concerns. This information is used to recommend specific activities for involving the community during the project.

This *F-Complex Community Involvement Plan* follows CERCLA guidance as to its contents and format. It will be updated to reflect F-Complex technical activities when a remedy is selected.

The strategies to accomplish these objectives take into consideration the location of the Knolls Laboratory and recognize its presence and its part in the community. Knolls Laboratory has been in the Niskayuna community since 1946 and has been a continued, stable presence. It is valued for its technological innovations and contributions to the larger communities’ economy and its history of national service.

## CIP Overview

The CIP describes anticipated community involvement activities as the CERCLA process for the F-Complex proceeds. This CIP is organized as follows:

- **Introduction** – Describes the CIP’s purpose and objectives and an overview of CERCLA.
- **Knolls Laboratory and F-Complex Background** – Provides an overview and history of the F-Complex and current/future site activities.
- **Community Background** – Includes a community profile, history of community involvement at Knolls Laboratory and summarizes community issues and concerns.
- **Planned Community Involvement Activities** – Describes planned methods and activities for communicating F-Complex activities and provides a schedule of anticipated community involvement activities.
- **References** – Lists references used in developing this CIP.
- **Appendix A** – Community Conversation Outline
- **Appendix B** – Community Involvement Requirements
- **Appendix C** – Contact Information
- **Appendix D** – Administrative Record File and Information Repository Details
- **Appendix E** – Community Fact Sheets

## Why be involved?

Sharing your thoughts and opinions on F-Complex cleanup alternatives provides DOE valuable perspective and fosters better, more informed decision-making. Your participation is important and welcomed!

## CERCLA Overview

DOE is following the CERCLA process and NCP in its decision-making to address the F-Complex buildings. Congress enacted CERCLA in 1980 to address releases and threatened releases of hazardous substances into the environment. CERCLA is sometimes referred to as “Superfund.” Although Knolls Laboratory and the F-Complex are not CERCLA/Superfund sites, DOE is using the CERCLA *process* to develop an approach to environmental decision-making that ensures worker health, public health, and the environment are protected; provides for community involvement; and reduces risk without unnecessary delay. DOE’s authority under CERCLA is provided by Executive Order 12580, *Superfund Implementation*.

A non-time critical removal action (NTCRA) is proposed for F-Complex based on DOE’s determination that a planning period of six months or more is available before starting to implement the selected action because no immediate threats to public health or welfare or the environment are present. As part of the NTCRA, DOE is:

- conducting an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) to describe the nature and extent of contamination,
- evaluating potential risks to human health and the environment,
- identifying relevant cleanup requirements,
- developing a range of alternatives, and
- recommending which alternative is appropriate for F-Complex.

As the lead agency, DOE will involve the community during the EE/CA process in the manner detailed in the NCP. **Figure 1** depicts the phases of the NTCRA process and indicates the breadth of community involvement in the process.

**Figure 1. Phases of the CERCLA NTCRA Process at F-Complex**



### What about NEPA?

People may be familiar with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and wonder where NEPA fits in with the F-Complex project. In accordance with DOE policy, NEPA is incorporated into the CERCLA process rather than being conducted as a separate analysis. DOE analyzes “NEPA values” for CERCLA actions, looking at factors such as cumulative, off-site, ecological, and socioeconomic impacts. DOE seeks to assess the effects of actions on underrepresented or underserved populations. Stakeholder engagement is a key NEPA value. DOE will take steps to provide opportunities for public involvement, including making documents available and offering an opportunity for public involvement in the decision process.

## What documents are being prepared for F-Complex?

DOE is preparing three documents for the project—an **Historical Site Assessment (HSA)**, an **Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA)**, and an **Action Memorandum (AM)**. The HSA documents the history of the property's use and any contamination that is present. The EE/CA assesses alternative actions to address the property and any contamination and includes a preferred alternative. The EE/CA will be issued for public review and comment, followed by a public meeting to discuss the proposed approach. The HSA will also be available for review. After the public meeting, DOE will address any comments that were received and will propose a decision on how to proceed. The decision is documented in the Action Memorandum.

EE/CAs are prepared for all NTCRAs and follow the “*CERCLA Guidance for Non-Time Critical Removal Actions*.” The primary purpose of an EE/CA is to provide a framework for identifying and evaluating alternatives to address the removal action. An EE/CA identifies the objectives of the removal action and analyzes the effectiveness, implementability, and cost of various alternatives that may satisfy the objectives. The results of an EE/CA decision are summarized in an Action Memorandum (AM).

In the EE/CA, DOE evaluates options for the F-Complex to address the contaminated buildings. The objectives of the selected alternative include:

- Addressing risks to human health and the environment
- Addressing contaminant-related constraints to the full use of the property
- Meeting all applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements of federal and New York State environmental statutes, regulations, and other requirements that pertain to the property for the selected action alternative
- Meeting all DOE Orders or other requirements that pertain to the project

Following the public meeting, public comment period, and review of comments, DOE will select, document, and implement an alternative that meets these objectives. When a CERCLA decision is reached for the F-Complex, this CIP will be updated to address the anticipated activities associated with the decision.

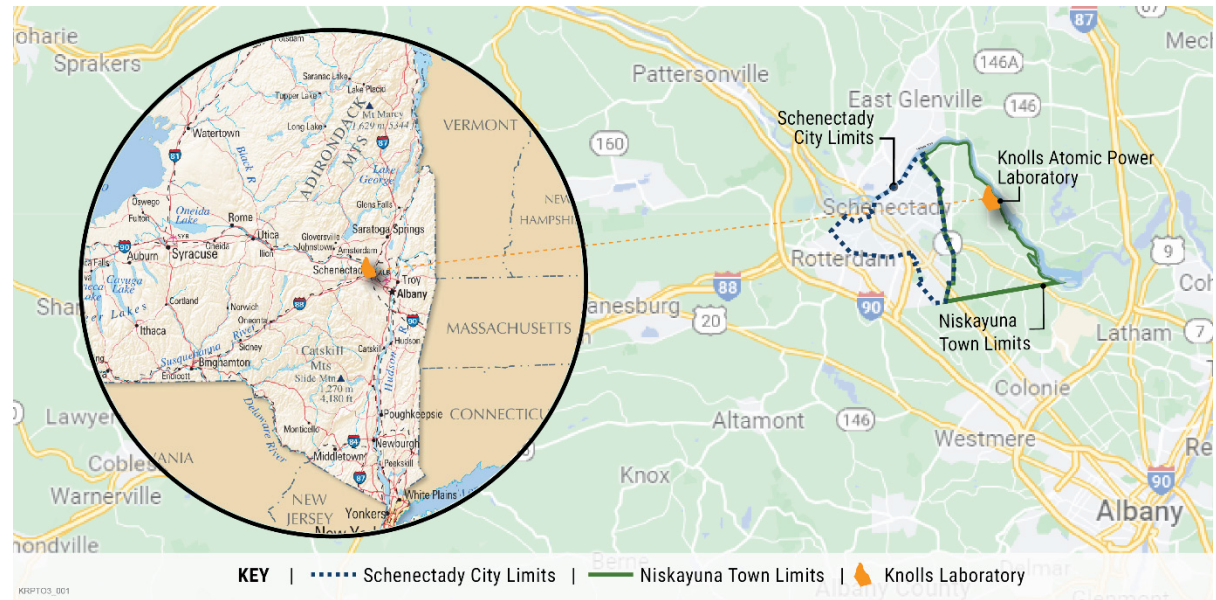


## Knolls Laboratory and F-Complex Background

Knolls Laboratory, a federal government owned site, was established in May 1946. It is situated on 170 acres of land on the south bank of the Mohawk River. The Office of Naval Reactors (NR) is the owner's representative, and Fluor Marine Propulsion, LLC is the Management and Operations contractor responsible for operations. The principal function at Knolls Laboratory is to support the U.S. Navy through research and development of the design of naval nuclear propulsion plants such as those used in nuclear-powered submarines, cruisers, and aircraft carriers. The site's mission is unique, focused, and important to national defense.

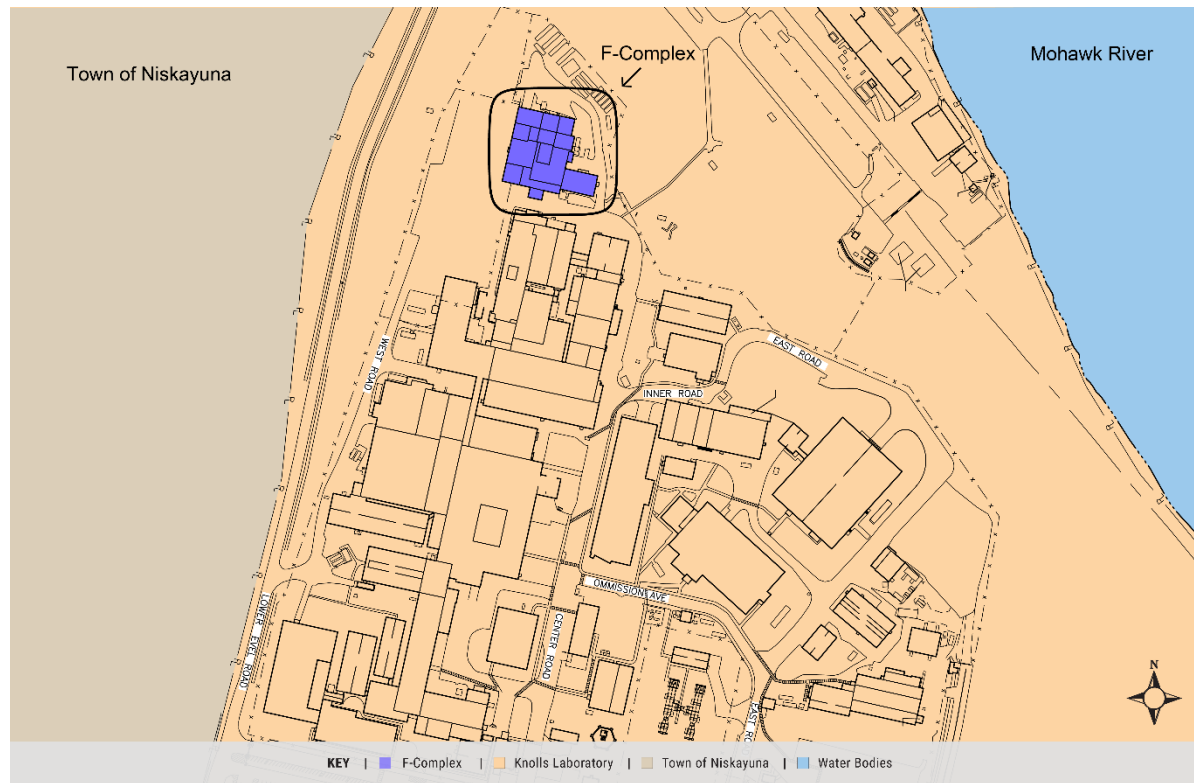
The Knolls Laboratory site is located approximately two miles east of the City of Schenectady (**Figure 2**) in Schenectady County. Niskayuna lies in the northeast corner of the county and is bounded on the west by the city of Schenectady, on the south by the Town of Colonie, and, separated by the Mohawk River, by Clifton Park on the north and east. Niskayuna is about 15 miles northwest of Albany, New York's state capital.

**Figure 2. Regional Location of Knolls Laboratory**



The F-Complex occupies less than two acres on the 170-acre Knolls Laboratory site and is shown in **Figure 3**.

**Figure 3. Location of F-Complex on Knolls Laboratory**



## F-Complex Overview and Background

The F-Complex, shown in **Figure 4**, comprises five interconnected buildings (F1, F2, F3, F4, and F6; F5 was demolished in 1978) and has 31,094 total gross square feet. The facilities were constructed between 1951 and 1970 and have been used for various purposes in support of Knolls Laboratory's mission. From the early 1950s to the 1990s, the F-Complex housed a variety of research reactors. At the end of the research phase for each reactor, they were defueled, are inactive, and have been placed in a safe condition awaiting disposition.

Additional information on the F-Complex, such as construction, history and use, and current conditions are found in the HSA and EE/CA.

## Previous Environmental Studies

As a part of assessing compliance with applicable laws and regulations that apply to the F-Complex and/or assessing general conditions, activities such as the following have occurred:

- Emissions stack monitoring for radiological NESHAP (National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants) compliance
- Site Visit by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to observe and assess Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs) located in F-Complex
- Sampling the groundwater discharge collected in facility sumps
- Gathering air monitoring data from air monitors at the site perimeter
- As a part of communicating site environmental information, Knolls Laboratory

**Figure 4. Aerial View of the F-Complex**



also issues an annual Environmental Monitoring Report (EMR) that is available to the public. The EMR mentions F-Complex facilities and activities, as warranted. Additionally, Knolls Laboratory has issued a periodic Environmental Summary Report. Public documents issued by Knolls Laboratory have points of contact identified if there are questions.

## Current and Future Site Activities

Knolls Laboratory is an active site with ongoing research and development activities. In addition to the present mission work, several other activities are planned at Knolls Laboratory in the next few years. Some of these activities do not have a community involvement component such as routine site activities, whereas others have

community involvement requirements and may be implemented under other authorities such as RCRA, the Atomic Energy Act, CERCLA, or the provisions of other guidance or processes. These activities include:

- Environmental remediation, demolition, and removal of legacy facilities
- Environmental characterization
- Renewal of the RCRA Part 373 Hazardous Waste Management permit for hazardous and mixed waste storage
- Water monitoring pursuant to State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits and sampling for radioactivity from outfalls
- Demolition of existing buildings and construction of new buildings to increase research and development space

# Community Background

## Community Profile

Niskayuna is a suburban community with a population of 23,278 as of 2020. The town is mostly developed and is characterized by a well-established pattern of residential development. Most homes are single-family, with areas of higher-density units. Only a small part of Niskayuna's commercial development is devoted to retail use, most being general office and medical or health care facilities. There are many places in the town to gather, relax, walk, hike, play golf, see historic sites, ride bicycles, and enjoy a meal. The town's location is adjacent to the Mohawk River, close to the Adirondack Mountains to the north and the Catskill Mountains to the south, and its overall quality of life, good schools, and variety of job opportunities have contributed to its steady growth and year-round popularity.

Housing is high quality and is reasonably varied. Most homes, 82.8%, are owner-occupied and have a median value of \$275,800. There were 7,761 households with an average occupancy of 2.83 persons in 2021.

The median household income in Niskayuna, at \$110,855, is the highest in the Capital District. The town is home to many doctors, lawyers, business owners/managers, engineers, scientists, and college professors. A significant portion of property taxes in Niskayuna are directed to education. Graduation rates are high in Niskayuna, with approximately 94% of the 2016 graduates of Niskayuna High School entering college.

Knolls Laboratory is one of two major industrial properties in Niskayuna and employs ~2,400 people. The other major industrial property is the GE Global Research Center, located just north of and adjacent to Knolls Laboratory (see **Figure 5**), which employs another 1,600 scientists and engineers. Other employers in the

area are Environment One and Bellevue Woman's Hospital.

The areas immediately surrounding Knolls Laboratory are a mixture of open and recreational land, the GE complex, small farms, a closed municipal landfill, and suburban residential areas, as shown in Figure 5.

**Figure 5. Knolls Laboratory Vicinity Land Use Map**





Blatnick Park is a Town of Niskayuna recreational facility that is just south of the Knolls Laboratory site and is the town's busiest park with a variety of recreational opportunities.

The park also provides several municipal functions including a waste transfer station and a town garage. The 12-acre Niskayuna Driving Range, constructed on the closed municipal landfill in the park, is immediately adjacent to Blatnick Park.

The Mohawk-Hudson Bikeway, a continuous 97-mile paved bike path connecting Albany and Schenectady Counties, has a portion in Niskayuna that follows River Road adjacent to Knolls Laboratory.

The town's population is 50.7% female and 49.3% male. By race, the town is 84.5% White, 9.9% Asian, 2.3% African American, and 3.3% "Other." Population in the town grew by approximately 6% between 2010 and 2020 and is expected to continue to grow over the next decades.

### Community Involvement History

On September 20, 2022, DOE met with the Town of Niskayuna Supervisor along with town personnel invited by the Town Supervisor who represent a range of opinions and backgrounds. The purpose of the meeting was to identify community issues and concerns and how and when citizens would like to be involved in the cleanup process. The results of those discussions are discussed in the following section.

### Community Issues and Concerns

Identifying community issues and concerns is a vital step in the CIP's development, and it is

important that the public be asked for recommendations on how the DOE can most effectively involve and engage their neighbors. The DOE will gather information from people who have expressed interest in the F-Complex. Feedback such as any issues and concerns obtained from the meeting with the Town of Niskayuna Supervisor and Town staff indicated that the public will be interested in project activities that could cause disturbances to residential quality of life such as traffic and noise. Comments received at the public meeting will be summarized in future updates to this CIP.

Community conversations enable a back-and-forth approach to learning about the community. Conversations are an effective communication method that provide information to enable the community involvement strategy to be tailored to meet the interests and concerns of the local populace. An important aspect of community conversations is to learn the preferred methods and modes of communication. With such a wide variety of communication methods available, it is important to find out the key methods that will be most widely used.

At the September 20, 2022, meeting between DOE, the Town Supervisor, and Town staff who live and work in the town, DOE asked those in attendance for suggestions of additional outreach opportunities, including methods and locations. Locations of community bulletin boards and kiosks were identified, such as those at grocery stores and coffee shops. On-line newspapers specifically focused on Niskayuna were named. DOE will be preparing public meeting announcements to post at locations in town and in neighborhood and local newspapers and on the website. A summary of the proposed

community involvement activities is provided in the following section. An outline of the conversation questions used to guide the outreach processes is provided in Appendix A, Community Conversation Outline.

### Summary of Community Conversations

DOE plans to engage with community members as a part of ongoing outreach activities throughout the F-Complex project. The names of the community organizations that DOE has engaged with will be included in future updates to the CIP.

Through conversation during the meeting with the Town Supervisor and staff, DOE asked questions and learned that community members are anticipated to be most interested in waste transportation routes and potential noise, dust, and traffic impacts that could be expected depending on the alternative that is chosen.

Preparation of "Frequently Asked Questions" in anticipation of community interest was recommended on topics such as waste transportation placarding on trucks. For this reason, the F-Complex project plans to provide topical Fact Sheets, and will also be holding a public meeting to gain knowledge and facilitate dialog on these matters of public interest related to F-Complex.

It was recommended by the Town Supervisor and staff that the public meeting be held in the evening in the Town of Niskayuna for the greatest potential attendance. The town also offered to make an announcement of the DOE public meeting at a Town Board meeting.



# ■ Planned Community Involvement Activities

## Communication Methods and Community Involvement Activities

Community involvement is a fundamental component in program operations, planning activities, and decision-making within DOE. Community involvement, as practiced by DOE, is intended to be open, ongoing, two-way communication, both formal and informal, between the DOE and interested members of the public, especially those in local communities that are “hosts” of DOE sites and activities. This approach to community involvement provides a means to gather a diverse collection of opinions, perspectives, and values from the broadest spectrum of the community, enabling DOE to make more informed decisions.

CERCLA community involvement requirements, which are provided in Appendix B, are tailored to provide information and to solicit not only participation, but to seek engagement and participation in the decision-making process. *DOE is very interested in your thoughts on their proposed CERCLA action at F-Complex.*

The community involvement activities for the F-Complex embrace both DOE policy and regulatory requirements, and have the following goals:

- To actively seek and identify stakeholders, obtain meaningful public input, and incorporate or otherwise respond to the views of stakeholders in making decisions. *Stakeholder voices are important to decision making.*

- To engage the public in a timely manner and encourage and empower the public to participate in the F-Complex’s decision-making processes at opportune times. Such processes will be open, understandable, and consistently followed. *Sharing clear information in a timely manner is necessary for decision making.*
- To provide credible, effective public participation processes, including community outreach, that will be incorporated into F-Complex project planning activities. Employees within the DOE Complex share responsibility for promoting and improving public participation and community involvement. *Public participation is sought and valued; it is a part of informed decision making.*

As noted earlier, DOE is following the process for conducting NTCRA under CERCLA for the F-Complex and will be preparing an EE/CA. The EE/CA process includes a public comment period and a public meeting where DOE will present the alternatives and offer stakeholders the opportunity to review, evaluate, and provide input on the options.

## Will there be a meeting?

Yes! A public meeting will take place in January 2023 during the public comment period for the EE/CA. DOE will have ads in local newspapers and on the radio about the meeting in advance of the meeting date. The meeting will also be announced on the F-Complex website. You will have an opportunity to interact with members of the project team, see photographs of the project site, and view graphics representing each of the proposed alternatives. There will also be an opportunity for you to speak during the meeting if you wish to do so.

### Contact Person

CERCLA guidance recommends designating a person who is responsible for responding to questions and inquiries from the public and the media. The name and contact information for this person should be included in correspondence associated with technical activities. The following DOE Federal Project Director (FPD) for F-Complex is the designated contact person:

Mr. Martin Krentz  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Federal Project Director  
2425 River Road  
Niskayuna, NY 12309-7100  
(518) 395-4580  
martin.krentz@emcbc.doe.gov

This contact information will be included in fact sheets, public notices, and news releases.

The F-Complex FPD is a key communicator about project activities and maintains working relationships with local municipalities, and local, state, and federal agencies including the Town of Niskayuna, Schenectady County, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), NYSDEC, New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), the local Emergency Planning Committee, and the County Emergency Management Organization. The F-Complex FPD keeps the Niskayuna Town Supervisor informed of project activities, particularly activities that will be visible to, or otherwise affect, the local community. The FPD also keeps state regulatory agencies apprised of project activities as appropriate. The FPD is available to state and federal elected officials to help answer questions that they may have on behalf of their constituents.

### What if I have questions, is there someone I can talk to?

The Federal Project Director (FPD), Mr. Martin Krentz, is a key communicator for the project. He is available to answer your questions about the project, too.

In addition to Mr. Krentz, Appendix C lists contact information for New York elected and public officials, Schenectady city and county contacts, and Town of Niskayuna contacts.

### **Administrative Record File**

DOE has established an Administrative Record file for the F-Complex along with an Information Repository that has a searchable list of resources contained in the Administrative Record file. The Administrative Record file will be established at the Niskayuna Branch of the Schenectady County Public Library (see Appendix D). Document hard copies may be requested for viewing through the reference librarian.

### **Information Repository**

A project Information Repository is a record storage area at or near a site that contains the Administrative Record file and all correspondence, reports, and documents pertaining to the project. At an Information Repository, people can research the site and applicable laws, learn how to participate in the CERCLA process, and copy any information found in the repository. The purpose of an Information Repository is to ensure that interested community members have access to relevant, current, and detailed information about the project. Information repositories are generally located in public libraries, which are typically open weekdays, weekends, and evenings and have copier service available.

The F-Complex Information Repository is located at the Niskayuna Branch of the Schenectady County Public Library. Information and library hours are included in Appendix D.

The following F-Complex documents and information are representative of what will be available in the Information Repository:

- Contact person's name and contact information

## **What is an Information Repository and an Administrative Record?**

An **Information Repository, or "IR,"** is where documents and records pertaining to the F-Complex are located so that community members can access information for the project. The IR is the "go to" location for community members. The IR will include materials such as the Environmental Monitoring Report and other documents that would not be in the Administrative Record file (which includes only the specific information used by DOE to make the decision). A copier will be available for visitors to copy materials that they would like to have.

The **Administrative Record file, or "AR,"** is a collection of the key project-specific documents and data that the DOE will use to make their project decision and that the public can review to provide comments and help give DOE their point of view. Some example documents that will be included in the AR file are the HSA and the EE/CA, along with significant public comments on the EE/CA and responses to those comments.

- F-Complex Community Involvement Plan
- Fact Sheets
- Historical Site Assessment
- Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis

### **Notice of Availability**

A Notice of Availability that provides the location of the Administrative Record file and Information Repository is issued at the beginning of a public comment period.

### **Information Website**

DOE has established a website (<https://www.energy.gov/em/EMCBC-NY/f-complex>) for the F-Complex project that has links to the Administrative Record file and Information Repository, the DOE decision-making process, information on the public meeting, and DOE contact information.

## **How do I access public documents?**

You can access public documents either in person or online, offering you flexibility:

- To view document hardcopies, visit the Information Repository at the Niskayuna Branch of the Schenectady County Public Library and search by title at the kiosk or at [www.scpl.org](http://www.scpl.org); both will tell you where the documents are located on the library shelf (see Appendix D for additional information).
- To view documents electronically, visit the project website at <https://www.energy.gov/em/EMCBC-NY/f-complex>.

Other documents such as the Annual Environmental Monitoring Report will also be placed in the Information Repository.

The website will have a “Looking Ahead” section so you can keep apprised of upcoming documents and events.

### **Public Comment Period**

A public comment period is a designated period in which community members can formally review and comment on a proposed course of action or decision. Comment periods are rarely less than 30 days. Typically, a public notice is published to announce the start and end dates of a public comment period and to provide information about how to submit written comments. A 30-day public comment period is required for the EE/CA and will occur for the F-Complex from January 6, 2023 through February 6, 2023.

### **Public Notices**

Public notices provide an official announcement of proposed project actions or activities. Public notices may be newspaper advertisements (display advertisements or legal notices), newspaper inserts, free publications or existing newsletters, public service announcements on the radio or television, broadcast announcements and advertisements (e.g., paid radio or television advertisements), and/or the Town of Niskayuna’s website “meetings” dropdown menu ([www.niskayuna.org](http://www.niskayuna.org)).

F-Complex public notices are published as display advertisements in local newspapers and as radio announcements.

### **Public Meetings**

Public meetings are open meetings to share information and discuss topics and issues related to the proposed project. Public meetings may be in a presentation format followed by a question-and-answer period, or it may be a more informal “workshop” with poster boards or other graphics and an opportunity for interested individuals to talk one-on-one with project managers, engineers, and scientists. The meeting may also be a combination of the two formats.

The F-Complex project will have a public meeting on January 19, 2023, to discuss project activities and provide an opportunity for the community to review and provide input on the alternatives. The Town of Niskayuna has offered use of its town facilities for any public meetings or workshops related to Knolls Laboratory activities at the following address:

Town of Niskayuna  
1 Niskayuna Circle  
Niskayuna, NY 12309  
(518) 386-4500

Public notices announce the day, time, and location of the F-Complex public meeting.

### **Newspaper Contacts/News Releases**

During the CIP conversation with the Town Supervisor and staff, participants identified the Times-Union and the Daily Gazette as the newspapers with the greatest circulation options for receiving newspaper notices. Town staff also mentioned the “Niskayuna Spotlight” and the “Your Niskayuna” publications as important sources of local news. DOE plans to publish public notices in these four newspapers. Efforts will be made to maintain regular contact with appropriate media representative(s) to ensure

that factual and consistent project information is provided to media outlets when needed. DOE ensures that meeting notices and other outreach materials that may be prepared are also included in the on-line versions of these publications. News releases are also planned for key milestones in the project to ensure the distribution of accurate and timely information.

### **Fact Sheets**

Fact sheets are concise informational communications that explain technical information in language and a format that can be readily understood. They are used at key stages of technical programs to explain the start of a technical activity, to summarize findings, or to otherwise keep the public informed about project activities.

A fact sheet summarizing the history of F-Complex and the alternatives presented in the EE/CA is included in Appendix E. A second fact sheet will be issued to summarize the comments received on the draft EE/CA after the public comment period concludes. Additional fact sheets may be prepared to respond to specific topics of interest to the community and will be included in future updates to the CIP.

### **Community Involvement Plan Revision**

To remain flexible and able to respond to the evolving interests of the community and changes that may occur within it, and as changes occur to the F-Complex, the CIP will be reviewed and revised as needed. As the selected alternative progresses, DOE staff may identify and use additional means or activities to inform and engage with the community.

## Community Involvement Activity Schedule

DOE will be using the above methods and activities to engage and inform the community regarding the F-Complex activities. **Figure 6** summarizes the schedule of community involvement activities.

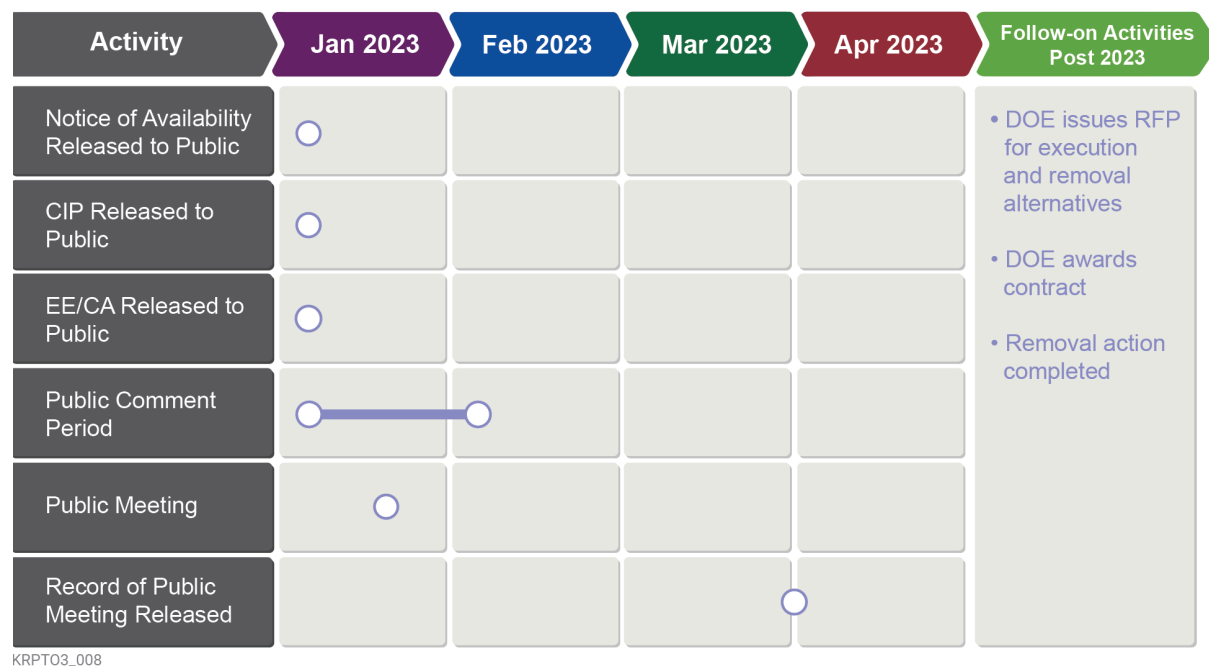
### Ongoing Activities

Activities that will be ongoing throughout the F-Complex project include responding to community inquiries/requests and maintaining the Administrative Record file and Information Repository.

### EE/CA Report Completion

**Table 1** provides an overview of the EE/CA report completion. DOE may perform additional community involvement activities as work proceeds.

**Figure 6. Estimated Schedule of Community Involvement**



**Table 1. Overview of EE/CA Report Completion**

When	Activity
<b>To initiate the public comment period</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue press release regarding the public comment period and EE/CA report availability</li> <li>• Update the Administrative Record file/Information Repository</li> <li>• Publish the Notice of Availability of the Administrative Record file in local newspapers</li> </ul>
<b>During public comment period</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold public meeting</li> </ul>
<b>After public comment period</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare responsiveness summary and EE/CA Action Memorandum</li> <li>• Update the Administrative Record file/Information Repository</li> <li>• Publish Notice of Availability of the Administrative Record file update in local newspapers</li> </ul>



## References

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# Appendix A

## Community Conversation Outline

- Are you familiar with the Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory F-Complex and its history?
- How long have you lived in the community/area?
- How long have you been involved with your organization/employed in your position.
- What, if any, questions or concerns do you or your organization have about Knolls Laboratory?
- Are you aware that the Naval Reactors program no longer has a need for the F-Complex?
- Would you, or would your organization, want to be informed of future activities at F-Complex?  
If yes, how would you like to be notified? (letter, email, radio, newspaper ads, etc.).
- What kind of information would you or your organization like to have concerning F-Complex?
- Are you aware of other individuals or groups that may be interested in the project? If yes, can you recommend a point of contact or other way for us to reach them?
- What newspaper, TV stations, and/or radio station in the community do you recommend for reaching the people who may be interested in the project?
- The F-Complex project plans to have its own website. What kind of information would you like to see on the website?

## Appendix B

### CERCLA Community Involvement Requirements

<i>CERCLA Non-Time Critical Removal Action Community Involvement Activities</i>		
When	What	Description
<b>Prior to completing the EE/CA</b>	Conduct community interviews	Conduct interviews with local officials, community residents, public interest groups, or other interested or affected parties, as appropriate, to solicit their concerns, information needs, and how or when citizens would like to be involved in the removal action process. The Knolls Laboratory F-Complex project uses a conversational approach as the interview process that enables questions to be asked, and information learned, as a part of a conversation. This conversational approach adds context to questions and is effective in building understanding for all parties involved.
	Prepare a Community Involvement Plan	Prepare a formal Community Involvement Plan based on community interviews/conversations and other relevant information, specifying the community involvement activities that DOE expects to undertake during the response.
	Establish an Information Repository	Establish at least one local information repository at or near the location of the removal action. The information repository should contain items made available for public information. Further, an Administrative Record file shall be available for public inspection in at least one of the repositories. DOE will inform the public of the establishment of the information repository and provide notice of availability of the Administrative Record file for public review. All items in the repository shall be available for public inspection and copying.
	Establish an Administrative Record File	The lead agency will establish an Administrative Record file and make the Administrative Record file available to the public at a central location at or near the site. The Administrative Record file contains items available for public inspection and copying.
<b>When the EE/CA is made available for public comment</b>	Publish a notice of EE/CA availability	The project team will publish a public notice of the availability and a brief description of the EE/CA in a major local newspaper of general circulation or use one or more other mechanisms to give adequate notice to a community.
	Hold a public comment period	After the completion of the EE/CA, the project team will provide a public comment period of no less than 30 days for the submission of written and oral comments on the EE/CA. Upon timely request (defined as those the DOE receives approximately two weeks before the close of the comment period), the project team should extend the public comment period by a minimum of 15 days.
	Prepare a responsiveness summary	The project team will prepare a written response to significant written and oral public comments submitted during the public comment period. The responsiveness summary must be placed in the information repository and included in the Administrative Record file.

## Appendix C

### Contact Information

U.S. Department of Energy		
<p style="text-align: center;">Mr. Martin Krentz U.S. Department of Energy Federal Project Director 2425 River Road Niskayuna, NY 12309-7100 (518) 395-4580 <a href="mailto:martin.krentz@emcbc.doe.gov">martin.krentz@emcbc.doe.gov</a></p>		

U.S. Government Elected Officials		
<p style="text-align: center;">The Honorable Charles Schumer United States Senator Leo W. O'Brien Federal Building, Room 420 One Clinton Square Albany, NY 12207 (518) 431-4070</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand United States Senator Leo W. O'Brien Federal Building, Room 821 One Clinton Square Albany, NY 12207 (518) 431-0120</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The Honorable Paul Tonko United States Representative, NY 20th 105 Jay Street, Room 15 Schenectady, NY 12305 (518) 374-4547</p>

U.S. Government Public Officials		
<p style="text-align: center;">Ms. Erin Floto Federal Facilities Program Manager U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 2 290 Broadway New York, NY 10007-1866 (212) 637-4007 <a href="mailto:floto.erin@epa.gov">floto.erin@epa.gov</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Mr. Richard Ruvo Director, Air and Radiation Division U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 2 290 Broadway, 28th Floor New York, NY 10007-1866 (212) 637-4014 <a href="mailto:ruvo.richard@epa.gov">ruvo.richard@epa.gov</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Ms. Kathleen Malone-Bogusky Federal Facilities Coordinator U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 2 Compliance Assistance and Program Support 290 Broadway, 21st Floor New York, NY 10007-1866 (212) 637-4083 <a href="mailto:malone.kathleen@epa.gov">malone.kathleen@epa.gov</a></p>
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State of New York Elected Officials	
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State of New York Public Officials		
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<p>Dr. Alex Damiani Director, Bureau of Environmental Radiation Protection New York State Department of Health Empire State Plaza, Corning Tower, room 1208 Albany, NY 12237 (518) 402-7550 <a href="mailto:alex.damiani@health.ny.gov">alex.damiani@health.ny.gov</a></p>	<p>Assistant Commissioner Public Affairs Group – <i>vacant as of 9/2022</i> New York State Department of Health Corning Tower, Empire State Plaza Albany, NY 12237</p>	<p>Ms. Alyse Peterson Senior Advisor, Policy and Regulatory Affairs New York State Energy Research and Development Authority 17 Columbia Circle Albany, NY 12203-6399 1-800-866-NYSERDA <a href="mailto:alyse.peterson@nyserda.ny.gov">alyse.peterson@nyserda.ny.gov</a></p>
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Schenectady County		
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Town of Niskayuna		
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Mr. Denis P. Brennan Town of Niskayuna Historian (518) 386-4500	Niskayuna Fire Department, District 1 1079 Balltown Road, Niskayuna, NY 12309 (518) 374-8386 <a href="mailto:chief@niskayunafire1.org">chief@niskayunafire1.org</a>	Niskayuna Fire Department, District 2 2772 Troy-Schenectady Road Niskayuna, NY 12309 (518) 785-6033 <a href="mailto:info@nfd2.org">info@nfd2.org</a>

## Appendix D

### Administrative Record File and Information Repository Details

The F-Complex Administrative Record file may be reviewed at the following Information Repository location during the hours indicated:

Information Repository	
Schenectady County Public Library Niskayuna Branch 2400 Nott Street East Niskayuna, NY 12309 (518) 386-2249 <a href="http://www.scpl.org">www.scpl.org</a>	<b>Hours:</b> Monday – Tuesday: 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Wednesday – Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sunday: Closed
Document/material requests may be made at any branch of the Schenectady County Public Library by inquiring with the Reference Librarian at the Reference Desk. Hardcopies of materials are available for viewing at the Niskayuna Branch. A searchable online database is available by going to <a href="http://www.scpl.org">www.scpl.org</a> and searching by title.	

## Appendix E

### Fact Sheets

The following pages contain a fact sheet about the EE/CA and its alternatives. A fact sheet summarizing the EE/CA comments and responses will be included in this CIP once they are published. Additional fact sheets will also be developed, as needed.



# F-Complex Removal Action at the Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory

# FACT SHEET

## Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA)

December 2022



The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Environmental Management has developed alternatives for the potential removal of the F-Complex at the Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory in Niskayuna, New York.

## Overview

The mission at Knolls Laboratory is to conduct research for the U.S. Navy on nuclear reactors that provide propulsion for aircraft carriers and submarines. Knolls Laboratory has been an important member of the Town of Niskayuna community since 1946.

The F-Complex is a group of interconnected buildings built between 1951 and 1970 to support several research reactor projects. During its active life, the F-Complex conducted research and testing, stored nuclear materials, and contained a machine shop, office space, and storage areas.

Three test reactor assemblies remain in F-Complex. All three are defueled and in a safe and stable condition awaiting disposition. The buildings have otherwise been emptied and are not currently occupied or in use. The defueled assemblies are part of the Flexible Plastic Reactor (FPR), Thermal Test Reactor (TTR), and Full Core Physics Experiment (FCPE).

Three alternatives for the F-Complex have been developed and are described on the following page. More detailed information is provided in the Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) document, which is available in the F-Complex Information Repository at the Niskayuna Branch of the Schenectady County Public Library or the F-Complex project website at <https://www.energy.gov/em/EMCBC-NY/f-complex>.

## Public Comment Period and Public Meeting

There is a 30-day comment period for the public to review proposed alternatives and provide feedback to DOE. The DOE is also hosting a public meeting to provide additional information on the F-Complex removal action alternatives summarized in this fact sheet and to offer an opportunity for attendees to comment on these alternatives.

## How You Can Comment

We'd like to hear from you! Please comment in one of the following ways:

- At the **public meeting**
- **Mail** comments to:  
Martin Krentz, Federal Project Director  
2425 River Road  
Niskayuna, NY 12309  
*Please postmark your comments by February 6, 2023*
- **Email** comments to [FComplexPublicComments@emcbc.doe.gov](mailto:FComplexPublicComments@emcbc.doe.gov)

## 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](mailto:martin.krentz@emcbc.doe.gov)

## Information Repository

Schenectady County Public Library  
Niskayuna Branch  
2400 Nott Street East  
Niskayuna, NY 12309

## Public Comment Period

January 6, 2023, through  
February 6, 2023

## Public Meeting

Thursday, January 19, 2023  
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Niskayuna Town Hall  
1 Niskayuna Circle  
Niskayuna, NY 12309



## What the EE/CA Proposes

The EE/CA analyzes alternatives for a potential non-time-critical removal action for the F-Complex, which includes buildings F1, F2, F3, F4, and F6 (Building F5 was removed in 1978). The EE/CA evaluates three different removal action alternatives, described in the following paragraphs.

### Alternative 1: Continued Legacy Facilities Management (the “no action” alternative)



Under this alternative, Legacy Facilities Management (LFM), consisting of surveillance, monitoring, and maintenance of F-Complex, would continue. Scheduled repairs and upkeep would occur, along with inspections to assess and monitor building conditions. Under this alternative, these activities would continue indefinitely, and radioactive contamination and hazardous materials would remain. The cost of implementing this alternative is projected to be \$17.5 million over the next 30 years.

As the photograph shows, the no action alternative would not result in visual changes to the exterior of the F-Complex buildings.

### Alternative 2: Cleanout of Defueled Assemblies



Alternative 2 would involve cleanout of the defueled test reactor assemblies by removing the tanks, equipment, and piping within the test reactor cells that could otherwise expose workers to radiation dose during subsequent LFM activities. Following equipment removal, the former test reactor cells would be decontaminated. This alternative would eliminate the highest sources of radioactivity, resulting in a reduced level of LFM activities; radioactive contamination and hazardous materials not associated with the defueled assemblies would remain. The cost of implementing this alternative is projected to be \$38.4 million over the next 30 years.

As the photograph shows, there would be limited visual changes to the exterior. Due to the size of the FCPE, the exterior wall and the roof of one of the buildings would need to be removed (depicted by blue shading) so that the defueled assembly could be removed. (Due to the angle of the photograph, the wall replacement is not able to be shown.) Upon removal, the wall would be replaced, and a new section of roof would be installed to protect the building interior from the elements.

### Alternative 3: Demolition of F-Complex



Alternative 3 would involve removing the entire F-Complex (Buildings F1, F2, F3, F4, and F6), including the defueled test reactor assemblies located in them. This alternative would remove all radioactive and hazardous materials in the buildings, provide a site suitable for use by DOE in continuing its mission, and eliminate the need for further LFM activities. DOE would retain ownership of the area and would control land use consistent with its continuing research mission at the Knolls Laboratory. The cost of implementing this alternative is projected to be \$68.4 million.

## Preferred Alternative

DOE recommends that Alternative 3 be selected as the preferred removal action. Removal would be a permanent and effective remedy that is readily implemented with demonstrated technologies and would make the building footprint available for future use by DOE in continuing its research mission at the Knolls Laboratory.