

Oyster Creek Response to Decommissioning Questions

1. What is the status of decommissioning at each facility? Who (which decommissioning company or other entity) did or is doing the decommissioning and what method(s) did/are they using (SAFSTOR or DECON). How long did/do they predict it will take?

Exelon Corp. sold the Oyster Creek plant to Holtec International Inc. The sale was approved by the NRC in the summer of 2019. The diagram offered by Mary Lampert on the corporate structure is the same at Oyster Creek. Thank you, Mary.

Holtec is using DECON and predict the job will be completed in six years. I do not have the information on casks that will be used yet. They are moving the spent fuel now stating that their technology allows for the transfer without the standard amount of cooling time. They plan on having all the fuel out of the overhead spent fuel pool in three years.

The NRC and NJ DEP have stated on several occasions that there is no High Burnup fuel at Oyster Creek. We suspect the accuracy of that. They currently are moving the fuel into casks.

Hardened On-Site Storage (HOSS) was not considered. The casks will be lined up vertically on a pod like bowling pins near the entrance to the plant and highway.

2. Decommissioning Trust Fund: How much was/is it? Is that adequate? Were any waivers issued to use for fuel storage rather than decommissioning?

There is \$980 million in the decommissioning trust fund. Holtec states it is adequate. However, Exelon's cost projection for decommissioning was \$1.4 billion.

3. CAB/COB/CAP: What community participation process, committee or panel was/is in place. Who appointed them? Were/are they effective?

Last week, at the urging of Clean Water Action Governor Murphy re-established a state independent oversight panel to add an extra layer of scrutiny to the decommissioning. It will be chaired by the DEP commissioner and include the state police, Homeland Security, and Board of Public Utilities representative. We have indicated that the panel should have an outside independent expert and are confident that will happen.

4. Emergency Response: What was the extent of emergency planning and response that occurred after the plant was closed and who paid for it?

Exelon and now Holtec were given waivers by NRC to reduce emergency planning around the plant once the fuel is out of the pools and stored in casks. They NJ DEP has stated that they will continue to have an inspector on site for as long as the casks are there, and the state has kept their emergency planning in place.

Holtec had bad headlines last week because representatives from several unions attended a company forum and charged that they were hiring lower skilled workers to decommission the plant, and that they were not receiving adequate safety training and had not been certified to work at a nuclear reactor.

Another safety concern surface during the summer when Holtec officials moved to disband its internal fire brigade and leave any fire emergency to the local, volunteer department. Clean Water Action met with state Senator Chris Connors and this was stopped in the nick of time. The local council had thought it was a great idea because Holtec offered financial support to train the local volunteers.

Thank you very much.

Janet Tauro, NJ Board Chair
Clean Water Action
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