

In Situ Decommissioning (ISD)

(Client: Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, AECL)

The Problem

ISD has been used in the United States for over 60 years. There is a good track record at Savannah River and at Hanford. However, for a variety of reasons, it is not used in Canada and the UK. Given the increasing pressure on budgets and schedules it was considered appropriate to consider the lessons learned and how ISD might be implemented elsewhere.



The Work

We ran a three-day workshop involving participants from Canada, United States and the United Kingdom. Participants included the Government side (AECL, DOE, NDA), regulators (environmental and safety) plus practitioners from each country. IAEA presented their perspectives via video link. We used highly interactive and participative session to identify the issues at each country and look at potential solutions. A site visit to Savannah River helped to place the workshop discussions in context.

The Result

At the conclusion of the meeting, three Working Groups had been created to address the primary issues identified. These Working Groups were:

- ISD Defined
- Benchmarking
- Regulators

Each working group has its own charter. Regular meetings are held to share knowledge across each country and to progress associated actions..

Key Achievements

- Identified and discussed lessons learned which are applicable to AECL, US DOE and UK NDA.
- Formed a series of Working Groups (each of which has a charter) targeted on the highest priority issues.
- Took the first step towards developing an international Community of Practice on In Situ Decommissioning.

“This meeting has exceeded all my expectations”

*Frank Gibbs, Vice President of
Decommissioning and Waste
Management Oversight at AECL.*