



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs

Telephone: 301/415-8200

Washington, DC 20555-001

E-mail: opa@nrc.gov

Web Site: <http://www.nrc.gov/OPA>

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NRC SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON FANSTEEL DECOMMISSIONING PLAN; ANNOUNCES OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is seeking public comments on a proposed plan by Fansteel, Inc., to decommission its facility near Muskogee, Oklahoma, that formerly processed ores to extract tantalum, niobium and scandium for use in industrial products. Interested persons may also request a hearing on the proposal.

Fansteel proposes to remove radiological contamination at the facility resulting from uranium and thorium in the ores, so that the site can be released for unrestricted use. The company holds an NRC license for possession of the uranium and thorium.

On July 24, 2003, Fansteel submitted a request for NRC to amend its license to approve its site decommissioning plan submitted on January 14 of this year (as amended on May 8). A copy of the plan and related documents are accessible from the NRC web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm.html>. Help in using the reading room is available by calling the NRC Public Document Room at 301/415-4737 or 800/397-4209.

Comments on the decommissioning proposal and its associated environmental impacts may be submitted to J.C. Shepherd, Decommissioning Branch, Division of Waste Management, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-001; or by fax: 301/415-5398; or e-mail; jcs2@nrc.gov, by September 10.

Affected persons may also submit a request by September 10 for a hearing on the decommissioning plan. A hearing request must describe in detail:

- The interest of the requester in the proceeding;
- How that interest may be affected by the results of the proceeding;
- The requester's areas of concern about the proposal and

-- Other information as described in a Federal Register notice on this subject, published on August 11.

Hearing requests should be submitted to the Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001, and also by fax to 301/415-1101 or e-mail to hearingdocket@nrc.gov . A copy of the request must also be sent to Fansteel, Inc., and the NRC staff at the addresses specified in the Federal Register notice.

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