



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

June 7, 2024

MEMORANDUM TO: Nicole S. Warnek, Acting Branch Chief  
Reactor Decommissioning Branch  
Division of Decommissioning, Uranium Recovery  
and Waste Programs  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

FROM: Tanya E. Hood, Project Manager  
Reactor Decommissioning Branch /RA/  
Division of Decommissioning, Uranium Recovery  
and Waste Programs  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MAY 8, 2024, PUBLIC MEETING REGARDING  
THE LICENSE TERMINATION PLAN FOR THE NUCLEAR SHIP  
SAVANNAH

On May 8, 2024, a hybrid public meeting was held between the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the U.S. Maritime Administration (MARAD) onboard the Nuclear Ship Savannah (NS Savannah). The purpose of the comment-gathering meeting was to discuss the NRC license termination process and the content of the MARAD License Termination Plan (LTP). Approval of the LTP would allow for the completion of decommissioning activities and termination of Facility Operating License, NS-1 for the NS Savannah.

The meeting notice and agenda, posted April 4, 2024, are available in the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) at Accession No. [ML24129A008](#) and are posted on the NRC's public Web page at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. The presentation material discussed during the meeting are available on the [meeting notice](#) and at [ML24124A125](#). Persons who do not have access to ADAMS or who encounter problems in accessing the meeting materials located in ADAMS should contact the NRC Public Document Room reference staff by telephone at 1-800-397-4209 or by email to [PDR.Resource@nrc.gov](mailto:PDR.Resource@nrc.gov).

Per the requirements of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 50.82(a)(9)(iii) the meeting and public comment period were also noticed in the *Federal Register* (FR) on April 3, 2024 (89 FR 23075). Directions for submitting comments electronically or by mail were provided in the FR Notice. The comment period for the LTP ended on June 3, 2024. No written comments have been received. The NRC also publish a press release and provided a notice of the meeting in the Baltimore Sun on April 24, 2024, and May 5, 2024.

CONTACT: Tanya Hood, NMSS/DUWP  
301-415-1387

Opening remarks for the meeting were given by the Director of the Division of Decommissioning, Uranium Recovery, and Waste Programs in the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards at the NRC. Representatives from NRC then gave a presentation on the NRC's license termination process and NRC's oversight and inspection process for power reactor decommissioning. A representative from MARAD gave a presentation on the content of the NS Savannah LTP, the decommissioning strategy, and a timeline for terminating the facility license.

At the end of the presentations, members of the public and interested stakeholders were invited to ask questions, provide feedback, and make comments on the NS Savannah LTP. The comments were addressed by NRC and MARAD staff members present at the meeting. The questions and responses are summarized here:

Question 1 - David Allard, Vice-Chair of the Community Advisory Panel for Decommissioning Three-Mile-Island Unit Two.

What was the decision for terminating the ship, which I guess technically the reactor was a power reactor, for a ship, very unique, under a research test reactor protocol?

Answer 1 – Tanya Hood, NRC Licensing Project Manager for the decommissioning of the NS Savannah.

When the Atomic Energy Commission partnered with the government to put the ship together, it was considered a test reactor even though it actively had a pressurized water reactor associated with it. While it is currently labeled on paper as a research test reactor, we are aware of what type of reactor was located on the ship when it was active and did a quality inspection associated with the parameters that have been shared with you in the presentation by Andrew Taverna, the NRC Inspector.

Question 2 - David Allard.

Does the NRC consider that 15 millirem proposed by MARAD basically satisfying the ALARA requirement for the 25 millirem criteria?

Answer 2 – Anthony “Tony” Dimitriadis, NRC Region 1 Branch Chief for the Decommissioning, Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) and Reactor Health Physics Branch.

The regulatory limit for the NRC is 25 millirem plus ALARA. So, for MARAD to go to 15 is well within the ALARA criteria.

Question 3 - Jack Fletcher, Public Member.

I was reading a 2013 article, it said the ship is operating on a \$2 million budget. Do you have any sense of how that would change further after the License Termination Plan?

Answer 3 – Erhard Koehler, MARAD Senior Technical Advisor for the NS Savannah.

Our baseline services federal budget today is about \$3 million a year; that's what we ask for. That covers the cost of our personnel to do the basic minimum standards of keeping the ship safe at the berth, including the utility cost, and so on. If the ship goes into a preservation scenario, there are a number of different ways that that number might come down. It depends

on how an entity would staff the ship. Usually there's quite a few volunteers and far fewer paid staff. They might not have to pay a lease, a full commercial-rate lease for the pier. We're probably not going to get much of a break on the electricity though. So, the budget could go down by as much as half depending on different scenarios for some alternate user, but at the present time we're at about \$3 million a year.

Question 4 - John Kelly, Public Member.

Are the license termination reviews funded by MARAD or is that within the NRC's budget itself?

Answer 4 – Tanya Hood.

It's a combination question. The NRC receives its budget from Congress to perform our tasks, but licensees pay fees associated with the review that reimburses elements of what the NRC gets paid.

Answer 4 – Erhard Koehler.

I can add to that slightly. MARAD has been paying fees since 2005. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 introduced a change to the Anti-Deficiency Act which now allows one federal agency to pay another federal agency fees. This is what the law says. So yes, we do pay fees and we're very proud to do so.

Approximately 40 representatives from the industry, the State, and the NRC participated in the meeting. A list of the meeting attendees is provided in Enclosure 1. Members of the public attended, but no public meeting feedback forms were received.

Please direct any inquiries to me at (301) 415-1387 or [Tanya.Hood@nrc.gov](mailto:Tanya.Hood@nrc.gov).

Enclosure:

1. List of Attendees
2. NRC/MARAD Presentation Slides
3. The transcript of the meeting

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MAY 8, 2024, PUBLIC MEETING REGARDING THE LICENSE TERMINATION PLAN FOR THE NUCLEAR SHIP SAVANNAH DATED June 7, 2024

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NAME	THood	JParrott	NWarnek (Acting)	THood
DATE	06/06/2024	06/06/2024	06/07/2024	06/07/2024

**OFFICIAL RECORD COPY**

## **ENCLOSURE 1**

LIST OF ATTENDEES

LIST OF ATTENDEES

MAY 8, 2024, LICENSE TERMINATION PLAN PUBLIC MEETING

WITH THE U.S. MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

RE: THE NUCLEAR SHIP SAVANNAH

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Anthony Dimitriadis	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)
Andrew Taverna	NRC
Bruce Watson	NRC
Emil Tabakov	NRC
Jack Parrott	NRC
Jane Marshall	NRC
Jean Trefethen	NRC
Louis Caponi	NRC
Lynn Ronewicz	NRC
Nate Fuguet	NRC
Neil Sheehan	NRC
Nicole Warnek	NRC
Tanya Hood	NRC
Anna Holloway	U.S. Maritime Administration (MARAD)
Cynthia Bearor	MARAD
Erhard H. Koehler	MARAD
John Osbourne	MARAD
Lisa Miles	MARAD
Robert Adams	MARAD
Soeth Caleb Soeun	MARAD
Wendy Coble	MARAD
Gerard Tourney	Energy Solutions
Lee DuBois	Energy Solutions
Eric Darios	Radiation Safety & Control Services, Inc
Heath Downey	Radiation Safety & Control Services, Inc
Mark McEvay	Radiation Safety & Control Services, Inc
Matthew Arsenault	Radiation Safety & Control Services, Inc
Nicholas Walts	Radiation Safety & Control Services, Inc
Ron Thurlow	Radiation Safety & Control Services, Inc
David Minges	State of Maryland
Liz Casso	State of Maryland
Anne Jennings	Public
Anthony Margan	Public
Bruce Reynolds	Public
Cornelia Mueller	Public
David J. Allard	Public
Don McGee	Public
Doug Polaski	Public

Edwrđ Tupin	Public
Fred Blondon	Public
Gail Marcus	Public
Gil Alexander	Public
Gilles Messier	Public
Hiltrud A. Koehler	Public
Jack Fletcher	Public
James Williams	Public
John Damm	Public
John Hickman	Public
John Kelly	Public
John Wiegand	Public
Joseph Wyatt	Public
Ken Egbuna	Public
Lawrence E. Boing	Public
Lina Planutyte	Public
Lori Glander	Public
Masato Ono	Public
Michael I. Dudek	Public
Michael Hamby	Public
Michael Tinkel	Public
Nadia Glucksberg	Public
Paul F. Johnston	Public
Richar Schiappacasse	Public
Rob Jackson	Public
Robbie	Public
Robert Sheranko	Public
Ruth Ches	Public
Savannah Fitzwater	Public
Scott Ginter	Public
Thomas Magette	Public
William F. Fowler	Public
William McCreedy	Public
Yehia Amin	Public
Zedra Taylor	Public

## **ENCLOSURE 2**

NRC PRESENTATION SLIDES  
ML24124A121

MARAD PRESENTATION SLIDES  
ML24124A124



**ENCLOSURE 3**

MEETING TRANSCRIPT  
ML24144A246