Factors affecting efficient decommissioning and dismantling of a NPP

Ulrika Wretås September 2024

Introduction

- Decommission is defined as an umbrella term including all activities that enable the nuclear facilities to be permanently shut down, decontaminated and released from regulatory control
- Use learnings from current decommissioning of four nuclear reactors in Sweden to find areas were decommissioning by design can positive effect:
 - safety, efficiency and cost by reducing workers exposure to radiation and occupational health risk;
 - and reduce the amount of waste that need to be under further control due to high radiation levels.





Waste Ladder According to IAEA*:

- The waste distribution of all material generated by decommissioning is distributed in
 - 95% conventional waste
 - 5% is suitable for disposal in near surface repositories.
 - 0,25% is not suitable for release from regulatory control or for near surface disposal, due to high levels of activity long-lived radionuclides; this material will ultimately be safely disposed of in underground disposal facilities
- Decommissioning as a complex undertaking that costs between 500 million to 2 billion dollars under a duration of 15-20 years – most it related to the 5,25%.





D&D Strategy

Material inventory



Radiological & environmentally harmful material characterization



Analysis of alternative waste routes



Cost/Benefit analyzes from an environmental, time assessment and radiation protection perspective



But how can these step be affected during design, construction and operation?





Success factors for effective NDD

- 1) Expedient safety related documentation, e.g. SAR
- 2) Continuous, open dialogue with authorities

3) Design of SSC

4) Design buildings for dismantling

5) Radiological characterization

6) Facility register

7) Operations and maintenance

8) Continuous waste handling

9) Ensure competence and skills

10) Develop strategies and plans for decommissioning

11) Prepare for HSE & radiation protection

12) Understand the cultural journey

13) Waste treatment facility