**N.S. SAVANNAH DECOMMISSIONING LICENSE TERMINATION (DECON-LT) PROCESS**

**THE N.S. SAVANNAH (NSS), A REGISTERED NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK AND THE WORLD’S FIRST NUCLEAR-POWERED MERCHANT SHIP WAS LAUNCHED IN 1959 TO PROMOTE THE PEACEFUL USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY AS PART OF THE ATOMS FOR PEACE PROGRAM.**

After the NSS completed its mission, the ship was removed from service and the reactor was defueled. Today, all that remains of the nuclear power plant aboard the ship is its systems, structures and components.

The U.S. Department of Transportation, through the Maritime Administration (MARAD), continues to hold a license issued by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to possess and dismantle, a non-operational, nuclear reactor and power plant located onboard the NSS vessel. As the agency implements the decommissioning - license termination (DECON-LT) process, the facility will remain under the NRC regulatory regimen to maintain a healthy and safe environment for workers and the community.

**GOAL**

MARAD will decommission the NSS nuclear facility by removing remaining systems, structures and components to allow for NRC’s termination of MARAD’s license without restrictions. Once decommissioned, MARAD will determine the future of the Savannah vessel.

For more information on the N.S. SAVANNAH, visit: [www.maritime.dot.gov/nssavannah](http://www.maritime.dot.gov/nssavannah)
PROCESS

The NSS DECON-LT project includes three phases to take place over seven years. The process focuses on safely dismantling and disposing of nuclear power plant components and equipment. Throughout this process, MARAD, working with the NRC, will ensure public safety, environmental integrity and transparency.

PHASE 1: PLAN
Planning and Engineering

- Commence planning and engineering to support the development of Phase 2 industrial dismantlement activities
- Make preparations inside the Radiologically Controlled Areas (RCAs) to enhance personnel safety and remove residual materials
- Provide adequate safety systems, including electrical, firefighting and ventilation
- Develop licensing amendments, establish environmental monitoring program and DECON-related procedures

PHASE 2: ACT
Industrial Dismantlement

- Reactor
- Primary System piping, valves, etc.
- Heat Exchangers
- Steam Generators
- Control Rod Drive System
- Neutron Shield Tank
- Pressurizer

Once removed, these items will be safely packed and transported to a licensed low-level waste disposal site in the U.S.

FUTURE

Upon completion of the process, MARAD intends to dispose of the NSS through its vessel donation program or by offering the vessel for recycling.

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