



MARITIME ADMINISTRATION
NAVIGATING A STRONGER FUTURE

N.S. SAVANNAH DECOMMISSIONING – REGULATORY CONTROL

ABOUT THE N.S. SAVANNAH

The N.S. SAVANNAH (NSS), the world's first nuclear-powered merchant ship, was launched in 1959 as part of President Eisenhower's visionary Atoms for Peace program. It was constructed as a joint project of the former Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) and the Maritime Administration (MARAD).



The Vessel Was Built To:

1

Demonstrate the peaceful uses of atomic power

2

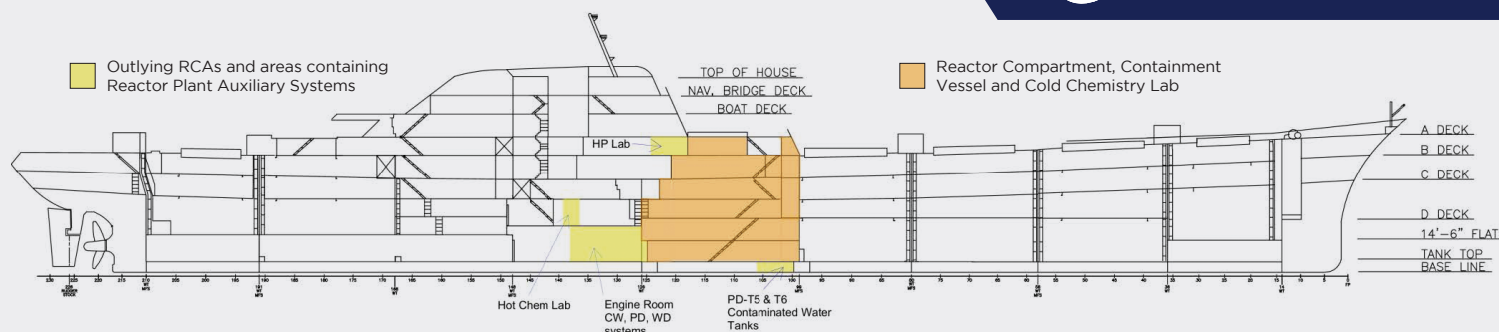
Exhibit the feasibility of nuclear-powered merchant ships

3

Develop the maritime infrastructure necessary for subsequent nuclear-powered merchant ships

After successfully completing its mission, the NSS was retired from service in 1970. Nuclear power production ended and the reactor was defueled in 1971. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) modified MARAD's license in 1976 to allow MARAD to possess the non-operational nuclear reactor and power plant. In 2018, the NRC modified the license again allowing MARAD to dismantle the nuclear power plant. As MARAD works to remove all of the components and systems of the power plant to successfully terminate the ship's license, the NRC will continue, as it always has, to control this highly-regulated and safe process.

For more information on the N.S. Savannah decommissioning process, visit: www.maritime.dot.gov/nssavannah



NRC'S ROLE

The NRC controls the decommissioning process for the protection of the public and the environment. The controls include licensing, which defines requirements and processes, and oversight to ensure that licensees act appropriately. The NRC continuously reviews these controls and updates its regulatory processes as new experience is gained.

Specifically for the NSS, the NRC will:

- Review and approve license changes requested by MARAD, and MARAD's license termination plan
- Develop environmental assessments to support NRC's review of NSS decommissioning activities
- Conduct frequent inspections of the ship throughout the process
- Review and approve final site status survey reports
- Conduct confirmatory surveys
- Terminate the license when all of the above is satisfactory
- For more details on NRC's regulatory role in the decommissioning process, visit www.nrc.gov/waste/decommissioning.html

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MARAD'S ROLE

MARAD, as the owner and operator of the NSS, follows the strict regulations set forth by the NRC. MARAD will continue to work closely with the NRC and its support staff to navigate through the seven-year decommissioning process. As the ship's caretaker, MARAD maintains the ship's interior and exterior, makes necessary repairs, conducts inspections and ensures the ship is suitable for office space and public tours.

Under NRC's regulatory control, MARAD must:

- Maintain its license compliance program to ensure public safety and protect the environment until decommissioning is complete
- Follow NRC's regulations and processes
- Apply for and obtain appropriate license amendments and the license termination plan
- Fund the safe decommissioning of the ship
- Conduct all work safely
- Communicate and share program status and updates with the public