

alternatives to meet DOE's and NYSERDA's purposes and needs for action, and a no-action alternative. This range encompasses release of the Center for re-use under unrestricted and restricted conditions as allowed under the License Termination Rule. The EIS will present the health and environmental consequences of the alternatives in comparable form to provide a clear basis for informed decision making. DOE's and NYSERDA's preferred alternative will be identified in the Draft EIS. This Draft EIS will also include an evaluation of whether the alternatives would meet the NRC decommissioning criteria and other applicable requirements.

Alternative 1—Unrestricted Site Release

DOE and NYSERDA intend to evaluate an alternative that could satisfy the License Termination Rule criteria and permit termination of NYSERDA's NRC license without restrictions. DOE and NYSERDA are proposing that this alternative involve removal of WVDP and non-WVDP wastes, structures, and contaminated soils to the extent required so that the radiological criteria specified in 10 CFR 20.1402 can be met for Project and non-Project facilities and the balance of the 3,345-acre Center. This alternative includes exhumation and offsite disposal of waste and contaminated soils from the NDA and SDA on the South Plateau.

DOE and NYSERDA intend to evaluate the need for new onsite interim waste storage capacity under Alternative 1 for some waste types, such as Greater-Than-Class C waste, that may not be able to be disposed of in a time frame that would support timely implementation of this EIS alternative. Such an interim storage facility would remain under institutional control until the waste it contains is removed from the site. Following implementation of this alternative, including removal of any wastes in interim storage, the Center could be released without restrictions.

Alternative 2—Partial Site Release without Restrictions

DOE and NYSERDA intend to evaluate an alternative that could satisfy the radiological criteria specified in 10 CFR 20.1402 for facilities and areas on the North Plateau geographic area of the Center, including the North Plateau groundwater plume, as well as the balance of the 3,345-acre Center, with the exception of the NDA and SDA. This would include removal of WVDP and non-WVDP wastes, structures, and contaminated soils to the extent required so that the radiological criteria specified in 10 CFR 20.1402 can be met

for the North Plateau. Appropriate infiltration controls would be evaluated for the NDA and the SDA. The NDA and SDA on the South Plateau would not be released but would be managed, monitored, and maintained under permit, license, or other appropriate regulatory oversight. With the exception of the NDA and SDA, the WVDP Project Premises and Center could be released without restrictions. DOE and NYSERDA also intend to evaluate the need for new onsite interim waste storage that may be required to support timely completion of this alternative.

Alternative 3—Partial Site Release with Restrictions

DOE and NYSERDA intend to evaluate an alternative that may permit release with restrictions of portions of the North Plateau geographic area and the balance of the 3,345-acre Center, with the exception of the NDA and SDA. DOE and NYSERDA are proposing that this alternative involve removal of wastes and structures to the extent technically and economically practical so that the radiological criteria specified in 10 CFR 20.1403 can be met for the North Plateau. This would involve in-place closure of the Process Building, Vitrification Facility, HLW Tank Farm, wastewater treatment facility lagoons, and the North Plateau contaminated groundwater plume in a manner that is protective of public health, safety, and the environment. Other ancillary North Plateau facilities would be removed. Appropriate infiltration controls would be evaluated for the NDA and the SDA. The application of institutional controls and engineered barriers would be required and evaluated. The NDA and SDA on the South Plateau would not be released but would be managed, monitored, and maintained under permit, license, or other appropriate regulatory oversight. With the exception of the NDA and SDA, the end state would be the release of the WVDP Project Premises and Center under restricted conditions. However, unimpacted and/or remediated areas of the Center could be considered for release without restrictions. DOE also intends to evaluate the need for new onsite interim HLW storage that may be required to support timely completion of this alternative.

Alternative 4—Monitor and Maintain under Current Operations

This alternative involves the continued management and oversight of the Center and all facilities located upon the Center property, including the WVDP, after DOE's implementation of its Record of Decision for the WVDP

Waste Management EIS. No decommissioning decisions would be made nor actions taken to make progress toward decommissioning, including decontamination beyond the scope that DOE is currently performing. No facilities would be closed in place, but would be left in their current configuration and actively monitored and maintained as required by existing regulations to protect public, worker, and environmental health and safety. When required, remedial actions would be taken in response to any releases of contamination into the environment that may present a health and safety risk, such as would be experienced from the eventual failure of the underground HLW storage tanks. Under this alternative, no portion of the Project Premises or the Center would be released for any present or future use.

Alternative 5—No Action (Walk Away)

This alternative involves the cessation of all management and oversight of the Center and all facilities located upon the Center property, including the WVDP, immediately after implementation of DOE's Record of Decision for the WVDP Waste Management EIS. The Process Building, Waste Tank Farm, Vitrification Facility, North Plateau groundwater plume, NDA, SDA, and other smaller facilities would remain and would not be monitored or maintained. Unmitigated natural processes, including erosion, groundwater transport of contamination, and concrete degradation, would be assumed to occur. The purpose of evaluating this alternative is to establish the basis against which the environmental impacts from all other decommissioning and/or long-term stewardship alternatives are compared.

Alternatives Considered But Eliminated From Further Evaluation

DOE does not consider the use of existing structures or construction of new aboveground facilities at the WVDP for indefinite storage of Project and non-Project LLW and mixed low-level waste (MLLW) to be a reasonable alternative for further consideration. Under the Waste Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (WMPEIS, DOE/EIS-0200-F) Record of Decision, DOE decided that sites such as the WVDP would ship their LLW and MLLW to other DOE sites that have disposal capabilities for these wastes. (This decision did not preclude the use of commercial disposal facilities as well.) The construction, subsequent maintenance, and periodic replacement over time of new facilities for indefinite onsite waste storage at West Valley