Plant Decommissioning and Site Redevelopment Supplemental Program

Stack at a fossil-fueled plant being felled

Background, Objectives, and New Learnings

Over the next two decades, many fossil fueled power plants worldwide will require closure and demolition given the energy transformation underway. Since 2009, the Plant Decommissioning and Site Redevelopment Supplemental Project has provided a source of information for utilities undergoing decommissioning and redevelopment. This foundational collaborative is designed to position funders for improved project outcomes, using systematic and scientifically backed approaches.

As fossil fueled power plant retirement rates increase so too do the expectations for utilities to be thoughtful in their approach and the impact on not just the site, but the community at large. Decommissioning and redevelopment teams need opportunities to engage with current topics in order to incorporate improved best practices and benefit from lessons learned on previous projects, thus improving the likelihood of success.

Often, public and interest group expectations demand that utilities attempt to replace the tax and job base losses to local communities via redevelopment of decommissioned properties. While opportunities abound in urban areas, redevelopment of properties in rural areas can be challenging and failure to identify routes to redevelopment can devastate local communities for decades. While consultants and development groups are eager to aid on a case-by-case basis, utilities need a roadmap identifying and evaluating assets and liabilities for redevelopment in both urban and rural areas.

- Provide guidance and checklists incorporating best practices for all key steps in plant closure, demolition, remediation, and redevelopment
- Platform to engage utilities and other stakeholders for collaboration and innovation
- Evaluate current decommissioning risk management approaches, technologies, and methodologies
- Provide assessment guides for identifying and managing environmental issues associated with plant decommissioning

The objectives of this project are to provide utilities with access to guidelines, checklists, leading practices, and lessons learned to enhance current internal decommissioning expertise, provide routes to improved project execution, and increase the likelihood of success for decommissioning, demolition, and redevelopment.

Benefits

Decommissioning and site redevelopment both provide opportunities for local communities to influence land-use for the betterment of the community. This forum provides research-based approaches to make the most of the community involvement aspect.

Additionally, this program has direct relevance to utilities currently decommissioning or planning to decommission or redevelop a fossil fueled power plant. Benefits include:

- Roadmaps for project planning and execution
- Current leading practices from industry
- Lessons learned from completed projects
- Platform to engage utilities and industry experts for collaboration and innovation
- Detailed guides on topics of special interest to decommissioning
- Detailed guides to risk management
- Topical guides for redevelopment planning

Project Approach and Summary

The program will continue to function as an interface between utilities decommissioning teams and industry experts while

building upon best practices, lessons learned, and roadmaps for planning and executing successful decommissioning and redevelopment projects.

The annual workshop brings together utility personnel and industry experts to discuss current topics in decommissioning and redevelopment. Utility members present case studies on completed decommissioning and redevelopment projects, often with a project site visit. Topical presentations, discussion panels, and member roundtables are offered through the workshops to provide opportunities for sharing and building new knowledge and ideas.

Throughout the year, webcasts on topics of interest to members are provided by industry experts. The topics span all areas of decommissioning and redevelopment, from repowering, site hazard assessments, demolition sequencing, asbestos abatement, to underground investigations and more.

Funders are provided access to a range of plant decommissioning and redevelopment case studies completed since 2009. The studies come from both utilities and industry experts, and cover best practices and lessons learned from individual projects.

Technical guidance on topics within decommissioning and redevelopment, including project planning and execution, waste identification and management, site investigation, end use selection, and remediation provide step by step assistance and checklists for utilities preparing for and executing decommissioning and redevelopment projects. New technical guidance is developed in conjunction with program member interests.

Deliverables

The deliverables from the program include:

- Case study reports as they are developed
- Annual Workshop for funders to foster collaboration, build upon shared knowledge, and identify opportunities
- Webcasts on topics of special interest to funders
- Technical guidance to provide step by step assistance with planning and execution
- Dedicated website for funders to access prior year workshop and webcast materials

Price of Project

The cost to participate in this supplemental program is $30,000 per calendar year. This project qualifies for Self-Directed Funding (SDF).

Project Status and Schedule

This Supplemental Program began in 2009 and will continue each year as determined by its members.

Who Should Join

Any company currently or planning to decommission, repower, or redevelop a fossil fueled power plant will benefit from participation in this program.

Contact Information

For more information, contact the EPRI Customer Assistance Center at 800.313.3774 (askepri@epri.com).

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