For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission,
William D. Reckley,
Branch Chief Rulemaking, Guidance and Advanced Reactors Branch, Division of New Reactor Licensing, Office of New Reactors.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Notice of issuance of License Amendment for Termination of License SNM–00007 for Battelle Memorial Institute, West Jefferson, OH

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:

I. Introduction

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing a license amendment to terminate Special Nuclear Material License No. SNM–00007 issued to Battelle Memorial Institute (the licensee) and to authorize for unrestricted use its former North Nuclear Sciences Site, located near West Jefferson, Ohio. An NRC approved decommissioning plan (DP) (ML003711118), which references an U.S. Department of Energy Environmental Assessment, and Finding of No Significant Impact, was incorporated into the licensee’s license by Amendment No. 23, on August 25, 2000 (ML010410001). This action was consistent with Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 20, Section 20.1401(b)(2), General provisions and scope, which states in part that “(b) The criteria in this subpart do not apply to sites which: (2) have previously submitted and received Commission approval on a license termination plan (LTP) or decommissioning plan that is compatible with the Site Decommissioning Management Program Action Plan criteria.” Thus, the incorporation of the DP into Battelle Memorial Institute’s license did not change the previously approved release criteria, but the licensee voluntarily implemented an administrative “as low as reasonably achievable” limit of 25 mrem per year dose limit throughout the West Jefferson North decommissioning project.

Historically, Battelle performed atomic energy research and development for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and its predecessor agencies between 1943 and 1986 at its Columbus Laboratories sites. The licensee’s special nuclear material license SNM–00007 authorized byproduct and special nuclear materials for commercial nuclear research activities at the same locations. Between the late 1980s and 1993, DOE and the NRC met to discuss coordination of the Battelle Columbus Laboratories Decommissioning Project. As a result, DOE decided to not impose DOE Orders where such orders would duplicate existing regulations which the project