

Revision	Approved by	Number of Pages
001		71
Approval Date	06/02-20	
 <b>General Nuclear System Ltd.</b>		
<b>UK HPR1000 GDA Project</b>		
Document Reference:	HPR/GDA/PCSR/0024	
<b>Title:</b>  <b>Pre-Construction Safety Report</b>  <b>Chapter 24</b>  <b>Decommissioning</b>		
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<b>UK HPR1000 GDA</b>	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 1 / 69

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>24.1 List of Abbreviations and Acronyms.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>24.2 Introduction.....</b>	<b>5</b>
24.2.1 Chapter Route Map.....	6
24.2.2 Chapter Structure.....	8
24.2.3 Interfaces with Other Chapters.....	8
24.2.4 Key Assumptions.....	12
<b>24.3 Applicable Codes and Standards.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>24.4 Design Considerations of Facilitating Decommissioning.....</b>	<b>14</b>
24.4.1 Site Selection.....	14
24.4.2 General Layout.....	15
24.4.3 Selection of Materials.....	17
24.4.4 Equipment Design.....	19
24.4.5 Process Design.....	20
24.4.6 Building and Structure Design.....	22
24.4.7 Layout Design.....	26
24.4.8 Waste Management.....	27
24.4.9 Radiological Protection.....	29
<b>24.5 Decommissioning Strategy.....</b>	<b>29</b>
24.5.1 General Principles of Decommissioning Strategy and End State.....	30
24.5.2 Decommissioning Strategy for UK HPR1000.....	31
<b>24.6 Preliminary Decommissioning Plan.....</b>	<b>32</b>
24.6.1 Timing of Decommissioning.....	32
24.6.1.1 Stage 1.....	32
24.6.1.2 Stage 2.....	33
24.6.1.3 Stage 3.....	33

<b>UK HPR1000 GDA</b>	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 2 / 69

24.6.1.4 Stage 4 .....	34
24.6.2 Radiological Characterisation.....	34
24.6.3 Spent Fuel Management .....	36
24.6.4 Decontamination.....	36
24.6.4.1 System Decontamination.....	37
24.6.4.2 Components Decontamination .....	37
24.6.4.3 Decontamination of Buildings and Structures.....	37
24.6.4.4 Decontamination Techniques.....	38
24.6.5 Dismantling.....	39
24.6.5.1 Dismantling of Systems and Components.....	39
24.6.5.2 Dismantling of Concrete and Steel Structures.....	41
24.6.6 Waste Management.....	46
24.6.6.1 Decommissioning Radioactive Waste Management Principles of the UK HPR1000 .....	46
24.6.6.2 Waste Inventory .....	47
24.6.6.3 Waste Management.....	48
24.6.6.4 Waste Disposability Assessment.....	51
24.6.7 Safety Management .....	51
24.6.7.1 Hazards and Risks/Impacts during Decommissioning .....	52
24.6.7.2 Control Measures.....	53
24.6.7.3 Organisation for Decommissioning.....	55
24.6.8 Delicensing .....	55
<b>24.7 Records and Knowledge Management.....</b>	<b>56</b>
24.7.1 Design, Construction and Commissioning Stage.....	56
24.7.2 Operational Stage.....	57
24.7.3 Decommissioning Stage .....	57
24.7.4 Records and Knowledge Management Techniques .....	57
<b>24.8 ALARP Assessment.....</b>	<b>58</b>

<b>UK HPR1000 GDA</b>	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 3 / 69

**24.9 Concluding Remarks ..... 60**

**24.10 References ..... 61**

**Appendix 24A Route Map of Decommissioning..... 64**

**Appendix 24B Decommissioning Waste Inventory ..... 67**

<b>UK HPR1000 GDA</b>	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 4 / 69

## 24.1 List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

ALARP	As Low As Reasonably Practicable
BAT	Best Available Technique
BFX	Fuel Building
BMX	Turbine Generator Building
BNX	Nuclear Auxiliary Building
BRX	Reactor Building
BSX	Safeguard Buildings
BWX	Radioactive Waste Treatment Building
CGN	China General Nuclear Power Corporation
DECC	Department of Energy and Climate Change (UK)
EA	Environment Agency (UK)
GDA	Generic Design Assessment
GDF	Geological Disposal Facility
HAW	High Activity Waste
HLW	High Level Waste
HPR1000 (FCG3)	Hua-long Pressurised Reactor under construction at Fangchenggang nuclear power plant unit 3
HVAC	Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ILW	Intermediate Level Waste
IWS	Integrated Waste Strategy
LAW	Lower Activity Waste
LLW	Low Level Waste
LLWR	Low Level Waste Repository Ltd (UK)
MSQA	Management of Safety and Quality Assurance
NDA	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (UK)
NPP	Nuclear Power Plant

<b>UK HPR1000 GDA</b>	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 5 / 69

ONR	Office for Nuclear Regulation (UK)
OPEX	Operating Experience
PCER	Pre-Construction Environmental Report
PCSR	Pre-Construction Safety Report
POCO	Post Operational Clean Out
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PWR	Pressurised Water Reactor
RCV	Chemical and Volume Control System [CVCS]
RGP	Relevant Good Practice
RPE	Nuclear Island Vent and Drain System [VDS]
RPV	Reactor Pressure Vessel
RWM	Radioactive Waste Management Ltd (UK)
SAP	Safety Assessment Principle (UK)
SFA	Spent Fuel Assembly
SFIS	Spent Fuel Interim Storage
SFP	Spent Fuel Pool
SG	Steam Generator
SSCs	Structures, Systems and Components
UK HPR1000	UK version of the Hua-long Pressurized Reactor
VLLW	Very Low Level Waste
WAC	Waste Acceptance Criteria
WENRA	Western European Nuclear Regulators Association

System codes (XXX) and system abbreviations (YYY) are provided for completeness in the format (XXX [YYY]), e.g. Chemical and Volume Control System (RCV [CVCS]).

## **24.2 Introduction**

Decommissioning is considered throughout the processes of siting, design, construction, commissioning and operation, although it is the last stage in the lifecycle of nuclear facilities as described in Reference [1]. This chapter presents the consideration of facilitating decommissioning, the decommissioning strategy and the

UK HPR1000 GDA	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 6 / 69

preliminary decommissioning plan for the UK version of the Hua-long Pressurised Reactor (UK HPR1000). It demonstrates that the plant can be decommissioned safely, effectively and with minimal impact on the environment and the public. Decommissioning for the UK HPR1000 is developed to meet UK regulatory requirements.

The following concepts are included in this chapter:

- a) Design for facilitating decommissioning: the design of the UK HPR1000 ensures that decommissioning can be achieved with reduced risks to the workers and the public, minimised production of wastes and nuclear & conventional impacts on the environment, simplified demolition procedures and lower costs. Comprehensive records will be made and kept, and other measures will be prepared during the full lifecycle of the plant to aid the decommissioning process, considering the requirements in References [2], [3] and [4]. Relevant information is provided in PCSR Sub-chapter 24.4;
- b) Adequate preparation of a decommissioning strategy: the decommissioning strategy of the UK HPR1000 is considered, developed and integrated with other relevant strategies (e.g. radioactive waste management and spent fuel management). Relevant information is provided in PCSR Sub-chapter 24.5;
- c) Adequate preparation of a decommissioning plan: There is OPEX on decommissioning PWR reactors and proven techniques exist which minimise risks. In this chapter the timing of the decommissioning strategy is discussed, and a preliminary decommissioning plan is prepared to reflect the developments in techniques and experiences, in order to ensure that the methods and techniques adopted for decommissioning are safe and protect the workers, the public and the environment. Relevant information is provided in PCSR Sub-chapter 24.6.

As Low As Reasonably Practicable (ALARP) and Best Available Technique (BAT) considerations are part of the UK HPR1000 decommissioning strategy and decommissioning plan. It should be noted that decommissioning is the last stage in the lifecycle of the UK HPR1000, and additional work is required by the future nuclear licensee to develop decommissioning during the site licensing phase and operating stage.

The present safety case of decommissioning is produced based on the design reference version 2.1, as described in the UK HPR1000 Design Reference Report, Reference [5].

### 24.2.1 Chapter Route Map

The *Fundamental Objective* of the UK HPR1000 is that: *The Generic UK HPR1000 could be constructed, operated, and decommissioned in the UK on a site bounded by the generic site envelope in a way that is safe, secure and that protects people and the*

UK HPR1000 GDA	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 7 / 69

*environment.*

To underpin this **Fundamental Objective**, five high level claims (Level 1 claims) and a number of Level 2 claims are developed and presented in Chapter 1. This chapter supports **Claim 5.1** and **Claim 5.2** derived from high level **Claim 5**.

**Claim 5:** *The UK HPR1000 will be designed, and is intended to be operated, so that it can be decommissioned safely, using current available technologies, and with minimal impact on the environment and people.*

**Claim 5.1:** *The design and intended operation will facilitate safe decommissioning using current available technologies.*

**Claim 5.2:** *The decommissioning strategy and plan are prepared and maintained for the generic design, which reflect UK policy.*

To support Claim 5.1, this chapter has developed four Sub-claims:

- a) **Sub-claim 5.1.SC24.1:** *The UK HPR1000 design features facilitate safe and effective decommissioning;*
- b) **Sub-claim 5.1.SC24.2:** *Documents and records required for decommissioning are identified and under preliminary preparation;*
- c) **Sub-claim 5.1.SC24.3:** *Faults and hazards of UK HPR1000 decommissioning are identified and assessed, and risks are shown to be capable of being ALARP;*
- d) **Sub-claim 5.1.SC24.4:** *The UK HPR1000 can be decommissioned using current methods and technologies.*

To support the Claim 5.2, three Sub-claims are developed:

- a) **Sub-claim 5.2.SC24.5:** *Proper preliminary decommissioning plans/strategies are prepared;*
- b) **Sub-claim 5.2.SC24.6:** *Disposal routes are available (or will be available) for all waste arising during decommissioning;*
- c) **Sub-claim 5.2.SC24.7:** *The decommissioning plan will be developed to reflect developments in technologies and experiences, to ensure that the timing and methods adopted for decommissioning are safe and protect the environment.*

A Route Map for Chapter 24 is developed in this sub-chapter and is presented in Appendix 24A. This Route Map sets out a ‘framework of travel’ for Chapter 24.

In addition, the mapping of decommissioning against relevant Safety Assessment Principle (SAP) requirements is provided in *Mapping Document of Decommissioning against Relevant SAPs Requirement*, Reference [6], and an overview of ALARP application in decommissioning in the GDA phase is provided in PCSR Sub-chapter 24.8. The related BAT demonstration is presented in PCER Chapter 3, Reference [7].

<b>UK HPR1000 GDA</b>	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 8 / 69

### 24.2.2 Chapter Structure

The structure of Chapter 24 is as follows:

a) Sub-chapter 24.1 List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

This section lists the abbreviations and acronyms that are used in PCSR Chapter 24.

b) Sub-chapter 24.2 Introduction

This section gives the route map, chapter structure, interfaces with other chapters and key assumptions of PCSR Chapter 24.

c) Sub-chapter 24.3 Applicable Codes and Standards

This section lists the codes and standards that are used for decommissioning.

d) Sub-chapter 24.4 Design Considerations of Facilitating Decommissioning

This section presents the design considerations for facilitating decommissioning.

e) Sub-chapter 24.5 Decommissioning Strategy

This section presents the decommissioning strategy and the end state of the UK HPR1000.

f) Sub-chapter 24.6 Preliminary Decommissioning Plan

This section presents the plan and main activities during decommissioning.

g) Sub-chapter 24.7 Records and Knowledge Management

This section presents documents, records and knowledge management that may be required for decommissioning.

h) Sub-chapter 24.8 ALARP Assessment

This section provides an overview of ALARP application in decommissioning.

i) Sub-chapter 24.9 Concluding Remarks

This section summarises the content of PCSR Chapter 24.

j) Sub-chapter 24.10 References

This section lists the supporting references of this chapter.

### 24.2.3 Interfaces with Other Chapters

The PCSR contains various chapters and substantive design information. To help understanding of the relationship between Chapter 24 and other chapters in the PCSR, the relevant interfaces have been identified and are presented in T-24.2-1.

T-24.2-1 Interfaces between Chapter 24 and Other Chapters

<b>PCSR Chapter</b>	<b>Interface</b>
Chapter 1 Introduction	<p>Chapter 1 provides the Fundamental Objective, Level 1 Claims and Level 2 Claims.</p> <p>Chapter 24 provides decommissioning relevant claims, which sub-claims to support relevant claims that are addressed in Chapter 1.</p>
Chapter 4 General Safety and Design Principles	<p>Chapter 4 covers the selection principles of design codes and standards notably those to be applied for decommissioning.</p> <p>Chapter 24 presents the applicable codes and standards for decommissioning.</p>
Chapter 6 Reactor Coolant System	<p>Chapter 6 provides the design substantiation relevant to facilitating decommissioning.</p> <p>Chapter 24 presents the principles and main design provisions relevant to facilitating decommissioning.</p>
Chapter 7 Safety Systems	<p>Chapter 7 provides the design substantiation relevant to facilitating decommissioning.</p> <p>Chapter 24 presents the principles and main design provisions relevant to facilitating decommissioning.</p>
Chapter 10 Auxiliary Systems	<p>Chapter 10 provides the design substantiation relevant to facilitating decommissioning.</p> <p>Chapter 24 presents the principles and main design provisions relevant to facilitating decommissioning.</p>
Chapter 11 Steam and Power Conversion System	<p>Chapter 11 provides the design substantiation relevant to facilitating decommissioning.</p> <p>Chapter 24 presents the principles and main design provisions relevant to facilitating decommissioning.</p>
Chapter 15 Human Factors	<p>Chapter 15 provides the principles and methodology for human factors integration that shall be considered in decommissioning design.</p>

<b>PCSR Chapter</b>	<b>Interface</b>
	Chapter 24 presents decommissioning design considerations relevant to the HF of the UK HPR1000.
Chapter 16 Civil Works & Structures	Chapter 16 covers the requirements of civil works and structures including those to be applied for decommissioning. Chapter 24 presents the principles and main provisions relevant to building and structure design that facilitate decommissioning and structure dismantling.
Chapter 17 Structural Integrity	Chapter 17 covers material selection and structure design including those to minimising waste generation and facilitating to decontamination. Chapter 24 presents the design principles and main provisions relevant to material selection that facilitate decommissioning and structure dismantling.
Chapter 18 External Hazards	Chapter 18 presents the list of external hazards and the hazards protection principles. Chapter 24 identifies the potential external hazards protection measures needed to be considered during decommissioning.
Chapter 19 Internal Hazards	Chapter 19 presents the list of internal hazards and the hazards protection principles. Chapter 24 identifies the internal hazards and the control measures needed to be considered during decommissioning.
Chapter 21 Reactor Chemistry	Chapter 21 provides information on reactor chemistry relevant to minimisation of source term, which contributes to the reduction of decommissioning waste generation and facilitating decommissioning. Chapter 24 presents the design principles and main

<b>PCSR Chapter</b>	<b>Interface</b>
	provisions relevant to reducing decommissioning waste generation and facilitating decommissioning.
Chapter 22 Radiological Protection	Chapter 22 provides the activated structure source term and deposit source term used for decommissioning source term assessment.  Chapter 24 presents the design principles and main provisions relevant to radiological protection that facilitate radiological protection consideration during decommissioning and source terms.
Chapter 23 Radioactive Waste Management	Chapter 23 covers the radioactive waste management system to be used for decommissioning where applicable.  Chapter 24 presents the waste management strategy, principles and main design provisions relevant to facilitating decommissioning.
Chapter 25 Conventional Safety and Fire Safety	Chapter 25 provides the conventional health and safety risk management techniques and general prevention principles including those relevant to the decommissioning stage.  Chapter 24 presents application of the conventional health and safety risk management techniques and general prevention principles in the development of the decommissioning safety case, and identifies main risks and associated mitigation measures as relevant.
Chapter 28 Fuel Route and Storage	Chapter 28 covers the fuel handling and storage system to be used during decommissioning.  Chapter 24 provides the decommissioning strategy and preliminary decommissioning plan for the Structures, Systems and Components (SSCs) related to the fuel handling and storage system.
Chapter 29 Interim Storage of Spent Fuel	Chapter 29 covers interim storage of spent fuel to be considered during decommissioning.

<b>PCSR Chapter</b>	<b>Interface</b>
	Chapter 24 presents the general decommissioning consideration of spent fuel interim storage facility.
Chapter 33 ALARP Evaluation	Chapter 33 presents the ALARP approach adopted for the UK HPR1000.  Chapter 24 presents the ALARP assessment for decommissioning based on these principles and the approach.

#### **24.2.4 Key Assumptions**

In order to develop the safety case in relation to the decommissioning, the following assumptions are made:

- a) The operational life of the UK HPR1000 is 60 years;
- b) The beginning of decommissioning is when the station is in normal outage with no intention of further use for the purpose of electricity generation;
- c) The strategy and preliminary decommissioning plan reflect current technologies and will be maintained by the licensee;
- d) Buildings and facilities will be utilised during the decommissioning process if risks are ALARP and measures are beneficial for waste minimisation and environmental & public protection;
- e) Spent fuel will be stored in Spent Fuel Pool (SFP) for several years, followed by storage in the Spent Fuel Interim Storage (SFIS) facility until the Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) is available;
- f) Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) generated during decommissioning will be safely stored in the ILW Interim Storage Facility (BQZ) until the GDF is available;
- g) Low Level Waste (LLW) or conventional waste generated during decommissioning will be disposed of immediately;
- h) The end of decommissioning is considered to be when all station buildings and facilities have been removed and the site has been returned to an agreed end state (e.g. green field) with the regulators and the planning authority.

#### **24.3 Applicable Codes and Standards**

According to the selection principles of codes and standards specified in PCSR Chapter 4 and *General Principles for Application of Laws, Regulations, Codes and*

<b>UK HPR1000 GDA</b>	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 13 / 69

*Standards*, Reference [8], the legislation, policy, codes and standards are analysed considering the design characteristics of the UK HPR1000, the UK regulatory requirements and the following three principles:

- a) The standards should be internationally recognised in nuclear industry;
- b) The standards should be latest or currently applicable approved standards;
- c) The standards should be consistent with the plant reliability goals necessary for safety.

The main legislation and national policy related to decommissioning are identified as follows:

- a) Environmental Permitting Regulations 2016, Reference [9];
- b) Hazardous Waste Regulations 2005, Reference [10];
- c) The Ionizing Radiations Regulations 2017, Reference [11];
- d) Nuclear Reactors (Environmental Impact Assessment for Decommissioning) Regulations 1999, Reference [12];
- e) The Construction (Design and Management) Management Regulations 2015, Reference [13];
- f) Review of radioactive waste management policy: Final Conclusions (CM 2919), 1995, Reference [14];
- g) UK Strategy for Radioactive Discharges, 2009, Reference [15].

For codes and standards relevant to decommissioning, a number of sources coming from the UK, Western European Nuclear Regulators Association (WENRA) and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) are analysed and determined in *Analysis Report of Applicable Codes and Standards*, Reference [16]. The guidance related to decommissioning are:

- a) Funded Decommissioning Programme Guidance for New Nuclear Power Stations 2011, Reference [17];
- b) Guidance on Managing Human and Organisational Factors in Decommissioning 2010, Reference [18];
- c) Joint guidance, The Management of Higher Activity Radioactive Waste on Nuclear Licensed sites 2015, Reference [19];
- d) Industry Guidance-Interim Storage of Higher Activity Waste Package – Integrated Approach 2017, Reference [20];
- e) WENRA Decommissioning Safety Reference Levels 2015, Reference [21];

<b>UK HPR1000 GDA</b>	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 14 / 69

- f) IAEA Decommissioning Facilities - GSR part 6, 2014, Reference [1];
- g) IAEA Safety Assessment for the Decommissioning of Facilities Using Radioactive Material No. WS-G-5.2, 2008, Reference [22];
- h) IAEA Decommissioning of Nuclear Power Plants and Research Reactors and other Nuclear Fuel Cycle Facilities. No.SSG-47, 2018, Reference [23].

These codes and standards guide the development of the decommissioning safety case, including the design for facilitating decommissioning, the decommissioning strategy, the preliminary decommissioning plan and the waste management strategy. Detailed analysis of applicable codes and standards is presented in Reference [16] where Relevant Good Practice (RGP) is identified.

## **24.4 Design Considerations of Facilitating Decommissioning**

The decommissioning of large Nuclear Power Plants (NPPs) is a complex and systematic engineering project, including various activities such as decontamination, dismantling of SSCs, and radioactive waste treatment /transportation. These activities involve nuclear and conventional safety, radiological protection, radioactive waste management and environmental protection. Although decommissioning is the last stage of the lifecycle of the UK HPR1000, early consideration of it during design stage plays an important role in achieving safe and effective decommissioning.

Therefore, based on the governmental policies/ strategies, regulation, relevant codes, standards and guidance and decommissioning OPEX in Reference [24], the principles and requirements for facilitating decommissioning are collected and developed at the beginning of design stage. During the UK HPR1000 design stage, the requirements for facilitating decommissioning have been and will continue to be considered. Design & operating measures to fulfil these requirements have been and will continue to be considered and implemented as relevant. Furthermore, for the ALARP/BAT demonstration during GDA phase, decommissioning is also taken into account as a factor, and integrated with all other design requirements.

The UK HPR1000 design has been developed taking into account requirements to facilitate decommissioning, and the document *Consistency Evaluation for Design of Facilitating Decommissioning*, Reference [25], evaluates the design of UK HPR1000 to assess whether the design measures that have been or will be implemented fulfil these requirements, commensurately to GDA phase and scope.

This sub-chapter presents the main design requirements related to facilitating decommissioning and briefly describes the design measures that have been considered.

### **24.4.1 Site Selection**

The siting of NPPs depends on many factors, such as areas covered by the grid and

<b>UK HPR1000 GDA</b>	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 15 / 69

availability of cooling water, etc. It is also expected that siting of the UK HPR1000 will follow the UK policy set out in *EN6 Vol. I and II*, Reference [26]. Siting standards also involve considerations related to decommissioning. The main considerations for siting of NPPs will be taken into account during/after nuclear site licensing phase. The following factors in particular should be considered.

- a) During/after siting, a detailed initial investigation of physical contamination, chemical contamination and radiological contamination of the site will be performed and relevant records kept as one of the important references for site acceptance in the future.
- b) The impact on long-term integrity of buildings and other structures is considered, especially with regards to the effect of external hazards. For the buildings that contain items important to safety, the civil structures of these buildings are designed to withstand the impact loads of design basis accidental aircraft crash, earthquakes, extreme wind, external missiles, external explosions, external flooding, sleet snow, etc. This contributes to the transition from operation to decommissioning of the plant, and supports operations during decommissioning.
- c) Transport infrastructure, such as waterways, railways, etc., around the site will be evaluated, to make sure that the wastes generated during operation and decommissioning of NPPs can be disposed of off-site.
- d) Space at or near the site is considered for locating decommissioning facilities and storing the wastes generated during decommissioning. For example, the design lifetime of the BQZ building is 100 years, and the scale of the BQZ building can be extended to meet the storage needs of the ILW generated during decommissioning. The conditioned ILW will be stored in the plant for a long period until the GDF is available, during which time radiation levels will reduce through decay.
- e) Utilities (such as power supply, fire water supply and potable water supply) are organised and set out so that they can provide continuous services during decommissioning. For instance, the UK HPR1000 is equipped with the outdoor piping network, including the piping network of the Potable Water System and Site Fire-fighting Water Distribution System. During decommissioning, both of these systems will be operational to facilitate the decontamination and dismantling process.

#### **24.4.2 General Layout**

The general layout considers the reservation of space and areas for transport of material, decontamination and dismantling. The space for decommissioning facilities as well as the efficient and effective logistics within the site is taken into account:

- a) Construction space is to be reserved as far as reasonably possible for:

<b>UK HPR1000 GDA</b>	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 16 / 69

- 1) The extension of the processing facilities for waste. It is highlighted that the plant area is reserved space and area for development, and the land use scale is determined according to the planning capacity;
  - 2) The guarantee of integrity and availability of public and auxiliary facilities, structures and equipment after permanent shutdown and partial dismantling. For example, the treatment of decommissioned waste will make the best use of the existing waste management facilities;
  - 3) New auxiliary facilities and special facilities after permanent shutdown if necessary;
  - 4) Temporary facilities for waste turnover. It is necessary to evaluate whether the construction of large temporary facilities (such as waste temporary storage) will be built according to the site conditions;
  - 5) The entrance, exit and manoeuvring of large handling appliances e.g. cranes and telehandlers used for dismantling. The optimisation and rational arrangement of the construction plant and machinery, office, road and site entrance are fully considered;
  - 6) The premises for contractors at the site. Temporary facilities during construction can be practically planned and arranged by the contractor according to the technical requirements.
- b) General layout of facilities is convenient for the different stages of dismantling without influencing the operation and maintenance of remaining facilities. The following aspects are considered:
- 1) The function and needs of ventilation facilities are considered during operation and decommissioning, as well as the order of demolition;
  - 2) The effect of the dismantling order. Demolition of buildings and structures is usually ordered from simple to complex, i.e. from the peripheral auxiliary facilities (the conventional island buildings) to the nuclear island buildings;
  - 3) Positions of facilities are convenient for equipment, personnel ingress and egress, air flow and material transfer during the different stages of decommissioning;
  - 4) The general layout facilitates site area partitioning during decommissioning. For example, the system of zoning management can be established, and a sufficiently conservative design source is used to complete the radiation partition;
  - 5) The general layout facilitates staged dismantling and decommissioning works. Sufficient space is reserved for the staged dismantling and decommissioning works around the nuclear island building.



<b>UK HPR1000 GDA</b>	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 18 / 69

selected to meet the local requirements.

- b) Corrosion is minimised as much as possible, to minimise the amount of radioactive waste, which benefits future decommissioning.
  - 1) Corrosion resistant materials are selected according to operating conditions to guarantee that the selected materials are highly resistant to various forms of corrosion. For example, 690 alloy is used for Steam Generator (SG) tubes, because of the excellent corrosion resistant property toward both primary and secondary circuits;
  - 2) Surface condition requirements on all surfaces of SSCs which could be exposed to contamination are defined to prevent penetration of the contaminant and facilitate decontamination;
  - 3) Noxious chemical elements of the consumables are limited to prevent corrosion on SSCs;
  - 4) The chemistry regime is optimised to limit corrosion.
- c) The material surfaces are easy to decontaminate to reduce the deposition of contaminants.
  - 1) Materials with a dense surface, good corrosion resistance and that are easy-to-clean are selected, and porous materials are avoided for pollution-prone areas, which facilitates decontamination during decommissioning. For example, castings are mostly replaced by forgings, with the progress seen in manufacturing processes and design optimisation. Most of the materials for the Reactor Coolant System are forgings and plates;
  - 2) Appropriate finishing treatment is applied where relevant. For example, a process of buffing is performed on SG tubes, which reduces the deposition of corrosion products on the surface of the tubes;
  - 3) The surface of carbon steels, low alloy steels and concrete is coated by paint to avoid corrosion. In addition, a decontamination test is performed on paint which is used inside the reactor containment, to prove the decontamination ability.
- d) To reduce the spread of contamination, the application of corrosive, toxic and hazardous materials on the surface of SSCs is prohibited in all stages including manufacturing, transportation, installation, commissioning, and maintenance, and the use of materials which could release corrosive, toxic and hazardous substances during operation is also minimised.
  - 1) In order to reduce the time spent by workers in the irradiated area during decontamination, flammable materials and fibrous materials, which need particular protection measures to be removed before decontamination, are

<b>UK HPR1000 GDA</b>	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 19 / 69

restricted for use. For example, the use of asbestos as a thermal insulation material is prohibited due to the serious health hazards it will cause during installation/dismantling;

- 2) Hydrophobic glass wool is selected for heat insulation material. The glass wool is protected with stainless steel shells which prevent the material from making contact with the flammable fluid.
- e) The choice of reusable or recyclable materials is considered at the design stage to reduce the amount of radioactive solid waste generated, and to optimise management of the unavoidable solid radwaste produced. The recyclability of material has been considered in the design process. For example, most metals and concrete could be reused or be recycled after decontamination processes. Metals could be melted to be reused, and conventional rubber could be reused as reinstatement material.

Additionally, reactor chemistry plays an important role in minimising contamination in the reactor circuit. For example, zinc injection is intended to be implemented through the Chemical and Volume Control System (RCV [CVCS]), and the objective is to reduce the dose rate in the primary circuit by preventing the release of corrosion products, which also benefits future decommissioning. The minimisation of waste generation during decommissioning by reactor chemistry is presented in PCSR Chapter 21: Reactor Chemistry.

#### **24.4.4 Equipment Design**

The following equipment design aspects are considered to facilitate decommissioning, which is consistent with Reference [24] and [27]:

- a) The equipment is designed with a simple structural form to make drainage, decontamination and dismantling easier. For instance:
  - 1) Equipment which needs to be drained is designed with a simple drain nozzle in the bottom area;
  - 2) Equipment connecting to the floor is designed with bolted connections for easy dismantling, and equipment nozzles are welded to the piping which makes it easier to be dismantled by cutting.
- b) Internal and external surfaces of equipment and pipes are smooth to reduce contaminant accumulation.
  - 1) The inner and outer surfaces are smooth without hollows or blind holes to ease decontamination;
  - 2) For primary loop equipment, such as the SG, Pressuriser, Main Coolant Line, Surge Line and Reactor Pressure Vessel (RPV), the roughness of internal and external surfaces is no more than Ra6.3;

<b>UK HPR1000 GDA</b>	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 20 / 69

- 3) For lifting equipment and equipment with carbon steel surfaces, painting is applied to smooth surfaces.
- c) Components with simple structures and smooth shapes without hollows or blind holes are adopted for connectors, fasteners, fixing devices and supporting devices of plant and equipment, which will contribute to decontamination and reduce the accumulation of contamination. For example, the pressuriser supporting heater plates are smooth and bolted to the pressuriser. In addition, the plate has many holes without hollows or blind holes which make the liquid easier to drain, so that the accumulation of contamination is reduced.
  - d) Equipment and pipes collecting and conveying liquids are easy to drain, and proper slopes or emptying traps are designed into the system.
  - e) Aids used for installation and dismantling activities, such as connections and fixings to walls, ceiling and floors are considered. The design life and the replaceability of equipment with the specific characteristics related to equipment installation and dismantling activities have been taken into account during the design stage:
    - 1) Overall dimensions of the items of equipment to be installed or dismantled;
    - 2) For the lifting equipment (such as the Polar Crane) required during the installation/dismantling operation, the application description and related requirements need to be specified;
    - 3) Procedures for monitoring lifting equipment need to be defined, including:
      - Lifting accessories, such as the lifting beam, slings, chains, overturn device, etc.;
      - Lifting path.
    - 4) Environment criteria for dismantling operations that might pose problems for operating personnel are identified and minimised, including:
      - Risk of radioactive intake within the BRX;
      - Difficulties of approaching the equipment being dismantled;
      - Visibility, temperature and humidity not suitable for operating personnel.

#### **24.4.5 Process Design**

For the process design, how decommissioning can be facilitated during the dismantling works is considered, including:

- a) emptying of equipment and systems;
- b) water filling, drainage and filtration of pool;

<b>UK HPR1000 GDA</b>	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 21 / 69

- c) waste disposal;
- d) equipment lifting;
- e) ventilation of radioactive areas, fire monitoring and protection;
- f) environmental monitoring;
- g) sump and ground drainage;
- h) power supplies, compressed air supplies and production water supplies.

In addition, the following principles are considered:

- a) Measures to reduce any residual radioactive sources inside the facilities after the final shutdown are adopted, including:
  - 1) Measures to reduce the generation of residual radioactive sources. In the process design, the systems are provided with adequate and reliable isolations to reduce potential leaks. For example, two isolation valves are provided for the Reactor Coolant Pressure Boundary and for containment penetrations of radioactive fluids. For components in contact with radioactive fluids, austenitic stainless steel is adopted in order to reduce potential corrosion in the components.
  - 2) Measures to reduce the retention of radioactive sources. The systems are required to fulfil the functions using simple configurations, and the quantity of components is optimised to reduce the retention of radioactive sources in the system. Components in contact with radioactive fluids, such as those associated with tanks and sumps, are designed with simple structures and surfaces. Consequently, the accumulation and retention of radioactive sources can be reduced.
  - 3) Measures to facilitate the decontamination. Connecting points for decontamination, draining and sampling are provided in the systems to facilitate decommissioning of the contaminated components and pipes. The design of tanks and sumps avoids potential radioactive sediment and provides measures for concrete tanks (pools) and sumps to facilitate cleaning. Tanks and sumps are equipped with steel liners (e.g. the In-containment Refuelling Water Storage Tank, Reactor Pit Flooding Tank, Spent Fuel Pool, etc.) or coatings (e.g. Reactor Pools) to ensure simplified decontamination.
- b) Emptying and decontamination methods are considered to facilitate decommissioning and maintenance. For example:
  - 1) Some container bottoms are designed as a sphere with an outlet which facilitates emptying;
  - 2) In pipeline layout, a certain gradient is set to prevent liquid accumulation and

<b>UK HPR1000 GDA</b>	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 22 / 69

encourage flow;

- 3) The decontamination system is used to remove or reduce contamination. In addition, decontamination equipment will also have an associated pipeline as required for the decontamination process.
- c) Primary coolant chemistry is controlled to reduce the migration and deposition of activation and corrosion products. For example, a high concentration of  ${}^7\text{LiOH}$  is used to optimise pH in the primary circuit, which will minimise the corrosion of structural materials and minimise the transport of corrosion products to the reactor core. Control of the pH also maintains the integrity of the fuel cladding material to minimise the leakage and break, reducing the potential for fission product release, minimising the spread of contamination and hence minimising elevated waste volumes and risks to operators in decommissioning. Further supporting information surrounding management of water chemistry can be found in PCSR Chapter 21: Reactor Chemistry.
- d) Measures which reduce the exposure dose of workers during decontamination are considered during the design. For example:
  - 1) An appropriate decontamination process used to reduce the exposure dose of workers during decontamination is considered in the design;
  - 2) Some interfaces reserved by container-type decontamination objects are physically isolated from decontamination objects themselves, which reduces the dose received by the decontamination operator;
  - 3) The opening and closing of equipment related to filtration, evaporation, desalination and associated valves will be remotely operated where reasonably practicable;
  - 4) Equipment will be located in the appropriate radiation zone according to the radioactivity level. When workers enter the different radiation zones, the appropriate protection measures will be taken to reduce the exposure dose.

#### **24.4.6 Building and Structure Design**

The following principles are adopted for concrete buildings and steel structures (steel lining, steelwork, etc.) to facilitate decommissioning:

- a) There are coatings or metal liners for all the surfaces of buildings (structures) which may be in contact with radioactive fluids during operation. The lining material corrosion resistance, radiation resistance, shock resistance and flame resistance are considered. For instance:
  - 1) For the pools within the nuclear island, the stainless steel liner is applied to the concrete walls and slabs of the pools;

<b>UK HPR1000 GDA</b>	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 23 / 69

- 2) For the internal containment, the sealing steel liner is anchored to the internal concrete including the internal surface of the dome, cylinder wall and bottom plate;
  - 3) The lining materials used in the UK HPR1000 are divided into non-alloy and alloy steels. The parameters of the metal liners, including corrosion resistance, radiation resistance, shock resistance and flame resistance are consistent with the applicable codes and standards;
  - 4) Coatings are applied to structures which may be in contact with radioactive fluids. These structures include concrete walls, slabs, floors and ceilings, steel structures, embedded plates and doors, etc.
- b) Floors, walls, coatings and metal liners are flat, smooth and easy to decontaminate, and the penetration positions are reduced and sealed. For instance:
- 1) The architectural design of buildings considers the general flatness requirements of the floors and walls;
  - 2) For surface coatings, decontamination tests are carried out in accordance with the requirements of the specification. The decontamination percentage and contamination sensitivity rate are controlled to ensure that the coating is easy to decontaminate;
  - 3) The penetrations are typically divided into four types: the Equipment Access Hatch, Personnel Access Airlocks, Mechanical (Fluid) Penetrations and Electrical Penetration. Some moderate-energy penetrations contain two or more pipework sections in the same penetration. All penetrations are sealed and the leak rate of the containment penetrations is monitored and gathered by the containment leak rate testing and monitoring system.
- c) Removable plates, barrier shields and access openings are adapted to improve the accessibility of personnel and equipment during decommissioning. The emergency personnel gates, stairs and elevators are set up for personnel entering and leaving, and equipment gates, movable cover-plates and movable shielding walls are set up for equipment introduction and delivery. A typical example is the movable shielding wall of the SG room: the movable wall is connected to the floor and walls on both sides through bolts, and the movable wall can be easily removed to facilitate the dismantling of the equipment during decommissioning.
- d) Consideration is given to the position of cutting and packing of main components for dismantling and storage, and lifting equipment is provided for heavy or large components.

When the demolition work of equipment is finished, the dismantling of main components of concrete structures begins and there are sufficient locations for cutting and packing of main components. For example, the +17.50m operational

<b>UK HPR1000 GDA</b>	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 24 / 69

deck floor of reactor building internal structures can be used for dismantling and storage.

For the dismantling of heavy or large components in reactor building, the polar crane can be used as lifting equipment. For the structures outside the containment, temporary lifting equipment is provided for dismantling of heavy or large components.

- e) The bearing capacity of floors considers dismantling of large components and the floors that may need to be removed during dismantling of large components are identified. The use of easily removed plates or blocks is considered.
  - 1) The ingress and egress of equipment and dismantling of large components are considered as loads during bearing capacity design of floors. There are three floors designed to hold large components. These features will facilitate future dismantling operations;
  - 2) To facilitate the dismantling and egress of large equipment or components, a hole in the floor area and corresponding cover plate are designed as a potential solution;
  - 3) Temporary shielding measures may increase the load of the floor because of the uncertainty of the load value in the design stage. The evaluation of the bearing capacity of the floor can be undertaken during the decommissioning stage, and temporary support at the bottom of the floor will be set up when it is necessary;
  - 4) Considering the fact that the critical load combination for bearing capacity of floors is earthquake load plus loads generated by accident, the margin of bearing capacity of floors is sufficient for the dismantling period of NPP.
- f) The possibility of staged dismantling of buildings (structures) is considered.
  - 1) The design of the separate raft foundation of buildings (structures) facilitates the staged dismantling of buildings. The BRX, BFX, BNX, Safeguard Building (BSX) and Turbine Generator Building (BMX) are located in different rafts. For example, Therefore the dismantling of the BMX does not affect the stability of the BNX or BRX, for example;
  - 2) Each of the above buildings is an independent structure, and there are no shared load-bearing walls or floors between buildings. Demolition of a building will not affect the structural integrity of another building.
- g) Consider to reduce or practically eliminate the use of prestressed concrete.

One of the typical lessons learned from Reference [26] is that the objectives of including design features to facilitate decommissioning should not be in conflict with the primary objective of the facility, which is safe and reliable operation and

<b>UK HPR1000 GDA</b>	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 25 / 69

maintenance. Under the premise of safe operation of the NPP, the use of prestressed concrete is as limited as possible.

For the buildings in the UK HPR1000, the prestressed concrete structure is only used for internal containment to ensure that accidental pressure can be resisted during the service period and the leakage of the containing radioactive substances can be prevented. From the dismantling experiences of NPPs, prestressed concrete containment can be demolished successfully with the hydraulic rams and controlled explosives.

For the other buildings, the ordinary reinforced concrete structures or steel structures (non-prestressed structures) are adopted practically.

h) Long term integrity of structures and structural design for decommissioning.

The safety classification and the seismic categorisation of the plant are identified to achieve relevant safety functions, such as support the SSCs in the building, prevent damage of external hazards or limit internal hazards consequences, provide support and radioactive barrier function of SSCs during decommissioning stage.

According to the above measures, the safety classification and the seismic categorisation of the plant are identified. Subsequently, the analysis and design of the structure are undertaken. The design method is mainly divided into two types: design method based on deterministic theory (also known as structural design analysis) and design method based on probabilistic theory (also known as PSA).

Through the above analysis process, the safety function of the structures during decommissioning is ensured to be performed.

i) Construction methods take account of the fact that the plant will be decommissioned.

At present, the construction method of concrete structures mainly adopts on-site supporting model and concrete pouring, and the construction of some areas adopts prefabricated components and on-site assembly. The construction methods of steel structures are mostly factory prefabrication of components, which are assembled on site by welding or bolting. Parts of the plant buildings are built using the steel structures to facilitate the decommissioning.

According to the present disassembly technology of concrete structure and steel structure, there is no difficulty in disassembling the concrete structure and steel structure constructed in the current construction method. These disassembly techniques are mature, and with the development of technology, disassembly of the plant will become easier and easier.

<b>UK HPR1000 GDA</b>	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 26 / 69

#### **24.4.7 Layout Design**

The following principles in layout design are considered for the convenience of facility decommissioning:

- a) Space for decommissioning is optimised whilst the volume of waste is minimised. Radioactive areas are isolated from non-radioactive areas and are also classified into different zones according to radiation levels. Whenever possible, the equipment or pipes without radiation are separated from those with radiation. Meanwhile, the corridors and maintenance spaces have been taken into account in the design stage to ensure accessibility of the equipment, which can also be used for decontamination and dismantling.
- b) The accessibility and laydown areas of equipment and components during decommissioning are considered. To facilitate dismantling of large equipment or components, construction techniques such as bolted precast concrete elements, structural blocks or bolted structural steelworks connections are adopted in the design. Separate personnel and equipment passages and entrances are provided for decommissioning.
- c) The retention and deposition of radioactive substances in systems are avoided:
  - 1) Rational structure design is considered:
    - Specific pipe design measures are implemented in order to align the inner surface of the systems and make it smooth, e.g. using butt welding for piping instead of socketing weld as far as practicable;
    - In the design of pipe routing, appropriate slope is considered to reduce the retention of radioactive substances;
    - Minimising the number of elbows and tees, using large radius elbows and avoiding of pipe dead legs;
    - Drainage at the bottom of tanks and lower point of piping systems is provided.
- d) Embedded pipes, fittings and equipment in walls and floors are avoided as far as practicable:
  - 1) In the layout design, the number is minimised by optimising the pipe routing, such as by shortening the pipe length and minimising the use of pipe penetrations. If it cannot be avoided that the pipes pass through walls, sleeves are used to prevent pipes from embedding in the civil structure.
  - 2) When embedded pipes are necessary, the following measures are implemented:
    - Collection points are set to reduce the number of embedded pipes;

<b>UK HPR1000 GDA</b>	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 27 / 69

- Pipes run in a straight line to ensure the length minimised;
- Embedded pipes are designed as double envelop pipe structures, where the external pipe is embedded in the concrete directly and is not in contact with the fluid. The inner pipe is used to carry the medium and is held by the external pipe without welding.

The layout facilitates the decommissioning work and provides effective shielding during dismantling. For example, removable slabs and walls are provided for maintenance and dismantling. Biological shielding, such as shielding walls and shielding doors, is considered during operation and can also be used to reduce the exposure of workers during decommissioning. In addition, movable biological shielding can be provided during dismantling if necessary, e.g. movable lead sheet.

#### **24.4.8 Waste Management**

The prevention and minimisation of the generation of unavoidable waste is the first step of the waste hierarchy and the foremost principle of good waste management. The design and operation of the UK HPR1000 are continuously optimised by considering application of the waste hierarchy, and also the principles of ALARP and BAT to minimise radioactive waste generation and its accumulation onsite.

It is noted that there are much provisions in the process design and layout design convenient for decommissioning, which have been shown in section 24.4.5 and 24.4.7 and in Reference [25]. The radioactive waste management systems are also process systems and many of the general design requirements stated in the Sub-chapters 24.4.5 and 24.4.7 are also applicable to waste management. In addition to these design provisions, the waste management optimisation for decommissioning will focus on two aspects: reducing generation of solid radioactive waste and reducing accumulation of solid radioactive waste, to reduce the waste volume to be treated during decommissioning. The associated objectives are as follows:

- a) Reduce generation of solid radioactive waste to reduce the waste volume to be treated during decommissioning.

Activities involving radioactive materials and the management of gaseous and aqueous effluents will unavoidably create solid radioactive waste. The design of the UK HPR1000 prevents, or where this is not possible, minimises the volume of solid radioactive waste. The main activities contributing to the prevention and minimisation of solid radioactive waste at source include:

- 1) Reducing solid radioactive waste via system configuration optimisation.
- 2) Minimising potential contamination by radiation zoning and contamination zoning;
- 3) Minimising solid radioactive waste via building layout design;

<b>UK HPR1000 GDA</b>	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 28 / 69

- 4) Extending the service life of equipment;
- 5) Keeping equipment in good working condition to minimise replacement;
- 6) Minimising solid radioactive waste by reusing maintenance equipment and tools in the controlled area;
- 7) Minimising solid radioactive waste via suitable material selection and chemistry regime;

The detailed demonstration of the above aspects is presented in the relevant PCER and PCSR chapters and associated supporting documentation, including PCSR Chapter 21, Chapter 23, and PCER Chapter 3 in Reference [7].

- b) Reduce accumulation of solid radioactive waste to reduce the waste volume to be treated during decommissioning.

Minimisation of accumulation on site is a significant element of radioactive waste management strategy in the UK HPR1000, especially for solid radioactive waste management. Appropriate disposal routes for different categories of radioactive waste are significantly beneficial to minimise the accumulation of radioactive waste, which result in the reduction of on-site radiological risks and also reduce the waste volume to be treated during decommissioning.

Operational solid waste generated by the UK HPR1000 will be disposed of as soon as practicable where an appropriate disposal route is available. VLLW and LLW will be shipped to appropriate off-site disposal facilities or waste treatment facilities. Waste for which there is no available disposal route will be accumulated and stored appropriately pending the availability of a disposal route. Furthermore, in order to facilitate the appropriate management of radioactive waste, the UK HPR1000 provides the appropriate space to segregate solid waste in BNX and BWX to reduce volumes and to store conditioned waste packages.

- c) Waste management facilities are designed so as to facilitate these future extensions.

An integrated waste management strategy has been developed and will be continuously evolved during GDA phase and site specific stage. The management proposal for decommissioning wastes is also developed, including ILW, LLW and VLLW. The design lifetime of the ILW interim storage facility (BQZ) is 100 years, and the scale of the BQZ building can be extended to meet the storage needs of the ILW generated during decommissioning. After interim storage, the packaged ILW will be retrieved and transferred to the GDF. The packaged LLW will be transferred to a suitable facility (e.g. Low Level Waste Repository Ltd (LLWR)) for disposal.

<b>UK HPR1000 GDA</b>	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 29 / 69

### **24.4.9 Radiological Protection**

The design requirements to facilitate decommissioning from the radiological protection point of view have also been taken into account when carrying out the UK HPR1000 design, including the following aspects:

a) Source term reduction

During decommissioning, the decontamination, disassembly, conditioning and packaging of SSCs are the most exposed activities, for which the main contributor to worker doses is deposit source term. Hence, the most effective way to reduce the radiological risk during decommissioning activities is to reduce the deposit source term.

To reduce the activated structure and deposit source term, during the design stage materials with good corrosion resistance and with low cobalt content are selected for SSC design to reduce corrosion products, and the inner surface of the components are finished to reduce the deposition, as described in in Sub-chapter 24.4.3.

b) Contamination management and access control

Radiation and contamination zoning are carried out for normal operation during the design stage, which will be important inputs to identify the contamination level, predict the radiation level and decide the access control scheme inside the radioactive buildings during decommissioning.

c) Shielding design

The walls, shield doors and labyrinths designed as radiation shielding for normal operation will still remain as shielding for decommissioning to reduce the dose received by workers if necessary.

d) Exposed duration reduction

The layout design ensures that there will be enough space in rooms and passages to facilitate decommissioning activities as described in Sub-chapter 24.4.6, which can help reduce the worker's exposure duration for access and operation during decommissioning.

e) Sampling and monitoring

Sampling and monitoring are set for radioactive systems to help obtain corresponding information on radioactivity during normal operation. This is an important input for radiological characterisation during decommissioning and will be recorded as part of knowledge management for decommissioning.

### **24.5 Decommissioning Strategy**

The UK HPR1000 decommissioning strategy provides information to demonstrate the

<b>UK HPR1000 GDA</b>	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 30 / 69

following:

- a) The UK HPR1000 can be safely, environmentally and effectively decommissioned at the end of its operational life using current available technologies;
- b) The design, and intended construction, operation, and decommissioning of the UK HPR1000 will be developed to reduce the risks/impacts on the workers, the public, and the environment, in accordance with BAT and ALARP principles.

#### **24.5.1 General Principles of Decommissioning Strategy and End State**

In general, the decommissioning objective and the end state of a nuclear site are the key factors that influence the decommissioning strategy. The following principles will be applied to achieve the agreed end state:

- a) Strategies should be compliant with UK Government policies and legislation, including the policies on sustainable development;
- b) Appropriate and scientific methods should be adopted;
- c) BAT should be adopted to reduce volumes of radioactive wastes and impact on the environment and the public;
- d) ALARP strategy should be applied to protect the public and the workforce;
- e) Strategies should take the views of stakeholders into account;
- f) Strategies should be reviewed and updated periodically;
- g) No options should be foreclosed;
- h) Plans should be optimised;
- i) Decommissioning activities should be carried out as soon as reasonably practicable, and all relevant factors should be taken into account at the same time;
- j) All relevant factors in the decommissioning plan & strategy should be considered and transparently assessed, supported by robust objective information and arguments;
- k) The creation of radioactive waste forms that may exclude options for safe and effective long-term waste disposal should be avoided;
- l) Volumes of radioactive waste created should be minimised;
- m) The benefits of delaying operations to take advantage of radioactive decay should be considered.

The end state for the UK HPR1000 is not fixed at this time, and will be agreed by the licensee with relevant stakeholders during the decommissioning stage. As a minimum

<b>UK HPR1000 GDA</b>	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 31 / 69

it is assumed that any site with the UK HPR1000 will be decommissioned such that the site can be delicensed (e.g. green field). To achieve this, the buildings and structures above -1m need to be dismantled after decontamination. Buildings and structures which are not contaminated and are below -1m will be left in place. Demolition products will be used as backfill for underground voids, trenches, and basements.

#### **24.5.2 Decommissioning Strategy for UK HPR1000**

According to IAEA and international experience, two viable strategies can be considered for completing decommissioning of NPPs: immediate dismantling and deferred dismantling. In principle, these two possible decommissioning strategies are applicable for all facilities in Reference [1].

- a) Immediate dismantling: In this case, decommissioning actions begin shortly after the permanent shutdown. Equipment and SSCs of a facility containing radioactive material are decontaminated and removed to a level that permits the facility to be released from regulatory control for unrestricted use, or released with restrictions for its future use.
- b) Deferred dismantling: In this case, as soon as the nuclear fuel is removed from the BRX, all or part of a facility containing radioactive material will be processed or placed under safe storage, so that the facility can be maintained until it is subsequently decontaminated and/or dismantled. Deferred dismantling may involve early dismantling of some parts of the facility as well as early processing and removal of some radioactive materials, which can ensure the safe storage of the remaining parts.

Technically, both immediate dismantling and deferred dismantling are possible for the UK HPR1000.

The decommissioning strategy option study set out in Appendix C of *Preliminary Decommissioning Plan*, Reference [28], is preliminarily prepared and will be continuously developed for the UK HPR1000 and integrated with other relevant strategies e.g. waste management.

Based on the main considerations for selection of decommissioning strategy, the preliminary strategy recommends immediate decommissioning as the preferred option for the UK HPR1000. This is consistent with UK Government policy and guidance as The Base Case in Reference [17] assumes prompt decommissioning of the power station, similar to the IAEA guidance. However, this does not mean the selection is foreclosed. The final decision can be made by the licensee in the future, taking relevant factors (views of stakeholders, legislation, policy & guidance, design & operational history, financial resources, latest OPEX etc.) as well as site specific conditions into full consideration.

<b>UK HPR1000 GDA</b>	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 32 / 69

Immediate decommissioning provides the clearance of the site at the earliest opportunity, reducing hazards and risks. These off-set the additional worker dose and HAW waste volumes that are created. It aligns largely with international PWR decommissioning OPEX, for example German PWRs are following this path, and generally US plants do as well where funds allow. US PWRs in particular have been completely dismantled safely and without significant adverse environmental impact.

The decommissioning strategy for the UK HPR1000 is consistent with UK government policies and strategies, including policy on sustainable development, and identifies and explains any differences if any.

## **24.6 Preliminary Decommissioning Plan**

A preliminary decommissioning plan including assumptions, strategy, project management, main activities, waste management, and relevant safety management has been developed to show that decommissioning of the UK HPR1000 is feasible using current technologies and within current policies, regulatory context and waste management framework. The preliminary decommissioning plan will be subsequently revised throughout the lifetime of the nuclear facility.

This sub-chapter gives brief information on the implementation of the decommissioning strategy based on an assumed plant status at the end of the operational stage and an assumed target end point for decommissioning.

The licensee will be responsible for updating decommissioning plans as required if UK legislation or best practice changes, or if there are any changes to the assumptions made. At appropriate periods in the future, detailed decommissioning plans will be developed by the licensee. During the preparation of these detailed decommissioning plans, the licensee will also develop or revise the relevant documents prior to decommissioning operations.

### **24.6.1 Timing of Decommissioning**

Decommissioning should be carried out as soon as is reasonably practicable, taking all relevant factors into account. Based on the preliminary analysis in the previous section the immediate decommissioning for the UK HPR1000 is assumed, the timing of decommissioning is justified in the safety case. However, the deferred decommissioning remains an option.

The process of decommissioning the UK HPR1000 can be divided into four continuous stages. There may be some overlap between these stages, but for clarity they are presented below as four distinct stages.

#### **24.6.1.1 Stage 1**

Stage 1 is the preparatory work for decommissioning, which will be performed before final shut down of the NPP. The main work at this stage includes:

<b>UK HPR1000 GDA</b>	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 33 / 69

- a) Review and update of the decommissioning strategy and plan;
- b) Decommissioning license application and permit application;
- c) Identification and development of decommissioning design and technology;
- d) Final decommissioning plan preparation after thorough investigation into the regulations and sufficient communication with other external stakeholders;
- e) Review of organisational structure and programme for transitioning from an operating structure to a decommissioning structure;
- f) Contract specification and contract management;
- g) Evaluation of nuclear facilities and systems' availability;
- h) Preliminary characterisation;
- i) Construction of temporary facilities or modification of existing facilities at an appropriate time, e.g. extension of ILW store and decommissioning waste management facility if necessary.

The duration of this stage is estimated to be approximately five years.

#### 24.6.1.2 Stage 2

Stage 2 refers to activities carried out shortly after final shutdown of a NPP. The organisational management and procedures begin to change from operations to decommissioning. The main work at this stage includes:

- a) Removal of Spent Fuel Assemblies (SFA) from the reactor to the SFP;
- b) Radiological characterisation;
- c) Safety maintenance of plant and systems;
- d) Post Operational Clean Out (POCO);
- e) Preliminary decontamination of the main circuit, auxiliary facilities and process building.

The duration of this stage is estimated to be approximately two years.

#### 24.6.1.3 Stage 3

The decommissioning activities of Stage 3 are based on those of Stage 2. The main work at this stage includes:

- a) Safe storage of SFAs in the SFP;
- b) After appropriate cooling period removal and transport of SFAs from the SFP to SFIS facility;

UK HPR1000 GDA	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 34 / 69

- c) Dismantling of non-essential systems, processing of recycling and disposal of conventional waste;
- d) Additional decontamination before carrying out some dismantling work;
- e) Dismantling of radioactive systems, radioactive equipment and buildings, including main circuit equipment, such as the SGs, coolant pumps, pressuriser and main circuit piping, auxiliary systems and buildings, etc.;
- f) Treatment, storage and disposal of radioactive waste in accordance with the provisions of regulations;
- g) Shielding and isolation of the remaining reactor body structure to ensure the plant site achieves limited site-release standards.
- h) Dismantling of the reactor body, biological shield and pre-stressed concrete.

The duration of this stage is estimated to be approximately eight years.

#### 24.6.1.4 Stage 4

The main tasks of Stage 4 include:

- a) Maintenance of the BQZ and SFIS facility;
- b) Removal and transportation of all waste in the BQZ and SFIS facility to the GDF when available;
- c) Dismantling of the BQZ and SFIS facility;
- d) Clean-up of the site and restoration of green spaces;
- e) Final surveys;
- f) De-licensing.

The duration for of stage is estimated to be approximately three years (this duration assumes GDF is available during decommissioning).

Within the four-stage decommissioning process, there are a number of key activities, including radiological characterisation, spent fuel management, decontamination, dismantling, waste management and safety management, which are described in Sub-chapters 24.6.2 to 24.6.7.

Detailed information regarding the timescales of decommissioning is presented in the *Preliminary Decommissioning Plan*, Reference [28].

### 24.6.2 Radiological Characterisation

Radiological characterisation is an important activity throughout the plant lifetime, including during decommissioning. It aims to obtain and record information on the radiological status of the plant to support the plant activities and help reduce the

<b>UK HPR1000 GDA</b>	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 35 / 69

exposure to workers so far as is reasonably practicable.

In the early stages of decommissioning a more comprehensive radiological characterisation of the NPP is carried out. It aims to support the decommissioning evaluation and planning. The radiological characterisation results are used for the estimation of waste quantities, selection of decommissioning technology, defining the timing of decommissioning, and developing the schemes of radiological protection.

The characterisation results provide details of the radiological status of the NPP, which help to identify the radiological risks for decommissioning and to establish the suitability of the decommissioning plan. The outcome of radiological characterisation will be documented as part of record and knowledge management.

The radiological characterisation investigates the composition and distribution of radionuclides, the level and distribution of contamination and the nature and quantity of the pollutants and waste, etc. It is carried out by on-site surveys, document investigation, calculation and analysis. The history of the site and facilities is taken into account.

a) The on-site survey is carried out by sampling, analysis and radiation monitoring.

The first step is to determine the numbers and locations of sampling points to ensure that the obtained samples are sufficient and appropriate to represent the status of the site. The samples are then taken and sent to the laboratory for chemical and radiological analysis to determine the radiological and chemical characteristics of the plant and facilities. The accuracy of the result obtained by this method depends on the adequacy of the sampling. In addition, radiation monitoring is used to obtain the dose rate of components, and then the composition and activity of the radionuclides are deduced;

b) The facility archives are reviewed to obtain radiological information from the relevant documents of the NPP, such as design documents, operational records, and event and accident records. The records of plant construction and modification should also be examined;

c) Material conservation and radioactive balance calculations can be used to gain an insight into the sources. Documents for design schemes, construction, operation and maintenance documents, examination of materials, and accident handling records are all important inputs for calculation and analysis. The decommissioning source terms for activated components and structures are mainly predicted by this method. In addition, based on the dose rate data obtained by onsite surveys, the source term of the contaminated components can also be estimated.

The radiological characterisation results provide details of the radiological status of the NPP which helps to identify the risks and hazards for decommissioning and to

<b>UK HPR1000 GDA</b>	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 36 / 69

support the decommissioning plan.

According to the predicted decommissioning source term for the UK HPR1000, provided in *Decommissioning Technical User Source Term Report*, Reference [29], the radionuclides existing in the activated structures and components in the core or around the core are mainly Co-60, Fe-55, Mn-54, Ni-59, Ni-63, Ca-41, Mo-93, Nb-93m, C-14, Cl-36 and/or Ar-39, while those in deposition on the inner surfaces of components or pipelines are mainly Co-60, Co-58, Cr-51, Ag-110m and/or Sb-124.

More detailed information on radiological characterisation is provided in *Preliminary Decommissioning Plan*, Reference [28]. Further information on predicted decommissioning source term for the UK HPR1000 is provided in *Decommissioning Technical User Source Term Report*, Reference [29].

### **24.6.3 Spent Fuel Management**

The spent fuel management plan for the UK HPR 1000 will be divided into the following three parts:

- a) The SFAs are unloaded from the reactor core and need to be stored in the SFP for cooling due to their high radioactivity and decay heat. The cooling period will be set considering the decrease of activity and heat decay of SFAs during storage and the physical capacity of the SFP (approximately 10 refuelling cycles before the SFP reaches the design capacity). This process is considered as short term storage;
- b) The SFAs will then be loaded into fuel storage canisters and transferred to the SFIS facility within transfer casks. The management of SFAs produced during the last several fuel cycles prior to decommissioning will be similar to that during operation. After the technology optioneering, the dry storage in casks technology is considered as the preferred storage option for the SFIS facility in the GDA phase. The on-site storage of spent fuel in a separate facility is considered as interim storage;
- c) The storage facility of the UK HPR1000 will ensure easy retrieval of SFAs from SFIS. It is intended that the SFAs will be safely disposed in the GDF. The spent fuel will be stored in the SFIS facility until the final disposal facility is available.

More information regarding fuel removal and spent fuel storage can be found in PCSR Chapter 28 Fuel Route and Storage and Chapter 29 Interim Storage of Spent Fuel.

### **24.6.4 Decontamination**

Decontamination is of significance for each stage of the decommissioning program. It is applied to internal and external surfaces of systems/equipment, tools, floors, rooms and civil structures to remove surface contamination of the UK HPR1000 in order to:

UK HPR1000 GDA	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 37 / 69

- a) Reduce the dose received by workers during decommissioning;
- b) Minimise the activity/volume of solid radioactive waste;
- c) Facilitate disassembly activities.

When defining if and how decontamination is applied, the operator will need to balance various factors, such as reduction of deposited activity and associated benefits, dose uptake, the secondary wastes generated in decontamination operations and the toxicity of chemicals and their effect on the environment and the public.

Based on decommissioning OPEX, widely used decontamination processes and techniques, possible decontamination solutions for the UK HPR1000, main risks / impacts and mitigations relevant to decontamination are all considered in the supporting document *Decontamination Processes and Techniques during Decommissioning*, Reference [30]. The future licensee will update the decontamination plan, taking account of the relevant operations data and the up to date OPEX available at that time.

#### 24.6.4.1 System Decontamination

The primary and auxiliary systems, including all components and pipework, need decontamination. As the components are connected by pipework they can be cleaned jointly in ‘full system decontamination’ by a chemical process during POCO.

Full system decontamination reduces the individual and total dose during decommissioning, and the number of decontamination cycles is determined by the results of sampling analysis. Once the radioactivity level is reduced to an acceptable level, decontamination is deemed sufficient.

#### 24.6.4.2 Components Decontamination

After full system decontamination, depending on the dose levels and transport arrangements, large components (e.g. primary coolant pumps) will be transferred to a workshop for size reduction and/or further decontamination.

Smaller components (e.g. valves, pipe segments, instrument, tools etc.) will undergo further decontamination in the hot workshop. These components are dismantled into their subcomponents and prepared for decontamination according to their dose rate levels.

#### 24.6.4.3 Decontamination of Buildings and Structures

Decontamination of concrete and steels surfaces in radioactive areas is carried out before the demolition of structures. The approach is to remove all the contamination and to demolish the structures as classical industrial structures.

Concrete components (e.g. walls, floor, and room), are treated according to their contamination levels. Concrete structures are decontaminated using mechanical

decontamination techniques (e.g. milling, shaving, wiping). The contaminated layer depth that needs to be removed is determined from calculation based on the radiological characterisation and the plant history information. Once the calculated layer depth has been removed, new measurements are performed, and if necessary more concrete will be removed until the measurement yields no more contamination.

Steel structures (e.g. equipment and pipe support, cable trays, beams, bars and other metallic material), are usually covered with decontaminable paints to facilitate decontamination. Slightly contaminated surfaces are decontaminated by wiping, and heavily contaminated surfaces are decontaminated by abrasive blasting. Most metallic materials can be recycled. Radioactivity of structures is lowered to an acceptable level before the cutting and dismantling activities are performed.

#### 24.6.4.4 Decontamination Techniques

For all decontamination techniques, consideration should be given to the amount of secondary waste produced, the safety and exposure of operators and the effect on the environment and the public. The applications of the available decontamination techniques are presented in T-24.6.4.4-1.

T-24.6.4.4-1 Decontamination Techniques

<b>Techniques</b>	<b>Applicable</b>
Full System Decontamination	Closed System, Equipment, component
Foam Decontamination	Metal pieces and parts of complex components
Chemical Gel	Large component, carbon steel pipes with simple geometry
Strippable Coating	Large non-porous surfaces, easily accessible
High Pressure Water	Larger items
Ultrasonic Bath	Components
Abrasive Grit Blasting	Metallic structure
CO <sub>2</sub> Blasting	Concrete, paints
High Pressure Liquid Nitrogen Blasting	Metals, concrete
Grinding	Floors and walls, metals

<b>Techniques</b>	<b>Applicable</b>
Shaving	Floors and walls
Milling	Large number of similarly shaped items
Scabbling	Floors and walls
Vacuuming / Scrubbing	Large quantities of loose contaminants
Electropolishing (electrochemical decontamination)	Conductive surfaces

### **24.6.5 Dismantling**

#### 24.6.5.1 Dismantling of Systems and Components

The dismantling plans benefit from the feedback of relevant appropriate decommissioning experience, completed worldwide, especially that which is relevant to PWRs. The decommissioning conditions are often similar whilst not being exactly the same. Various dismantling techniques are available currently and they should be used, on a case-by-case basis.

In particular, various cutting techniques can be used to reduce the size of the equipment, as presented in *OPEX on Decommissioning*, Reference [24]. Cutting techniques include thermal (such as plasma), mechanical (such as circular saw) and water jet techniques. The most appropriate technique should be chosen after feasibility studies have been undertaken. Specific physical characteristics, such as size, thickness and material, radiological constraints and access should be taken into account.

Feedback on dismantling nuclear power plants shows that the techniques, knowledge and skills are already available to manage the challenges presented by decommissioning.

The dismantling process should be determined using the following criteria:

- a) The risks to the workers, public and environment. The measures applied to detect, prevent, limit and progressively reduce relevant risks;
- b) The final state of the facility;
- c) The scheduling and nature of the dismantling works;
- d) The relevant origin, characteristics, quantity, packaging, transportation, disposal, recycling and management of both nuclear and non-nuclear waste;
- e) The maintenance requirements for the facility and the auxiliary buildings during

<b>UK HPR1000 GDA</b>	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 40 / 69

the dismantling operation;

- f) The emergency plan during the operation.

The predicted impact of decommissioning the UK HPR1000, and the logistical challenges presented by the reactor design, for example the transportation issues for the SGs, are understood from the design stage.

The dismantling of the UK HPR1000 is based on the following consideration:

- a) Remote dismantling of highly and moderately activated components under water, such as reactor vessel internals;
- b) Dismantling of contaminated components and slightly activated components in air, such as reactor coolant piping;
- c) Making maximum use of the UK HPR1000 facilities for containment and shielding purposes during the dismantling. The access routes to the reactor containment building have been designed to allow the import of dismantling equipment and export of large components, such as the SGs;
- d) Use of auxiliary buildings which will have a refurbished function especially during dismantling. While the reactor has been shut down, redundant auxiliary buildings can be refurbished in parallel to support decommissioning and waste management;
- e) Removal of reactor coolant piping and reactor coolant pumps (primary cutting if necessary) from their location inside BRX to a workshop at the building floor service or in auxiliary buildings to be size-reduced for packaging;
- f) Removal of the SGs as complete units from their respective shielded enclosures to a waste processing facility outside the BRX. Reverse handling and transportation design of large components, such as the SGs, reactor coolant pumps and the pressuriser during the installation stage, provide the possibility of removing the large components in one single piece, if appropriate.
- g) The polar crane within BRX is designed for the handling of heavy equipment and reactor components during decommissioning. Lighter components can be handled by other means specific to the task and potentially added during the decommissioning stage;
- h) The shielding needs will be taken into account during the dismantling and transportation process.

The basic dismantling process for the primary circuit is given below:

- a) Preparation (drainage, decontamination etc.) of primary circuit dismantling, dismantling of auxiliary pipes;

<b>UK HPR1000 GDA</b>	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 41 / 69

- b) Removal of the SGs from the BRX for dismantling in a dedicated workshop;
- c) Removal and dismantling of the reactor coolant pumps;
- d) Dismantling and removal of the reactor coolant piping;
- e) Removal and dismantling of the pressuriser;
- f) Preparation and dismantling of reactor vessel internals in the reactor pool under water;
- g) Dismantling of the RPV;
- h) Dismantling of reactor vessel head;
- i) End of primary circuit dismantling.

Considering the primary coolant circuit equipment in the reactor building of the UK HPR1000 is of relatively large volume and is anticipated to have high radioactivity levels at the time of decommissioning, the primary equipment decommissioning work is a key activity of the overall UK HPR1000 decommissioning. Thus the proposed dismantling process for each piece of the UK HPR1000 primary equipment is presented in *Preliminary Disassembly Program for the Main Equipment Decommissioning*, Reference [31]. This includes decommissioning strategy / plan, dismantling processes, main risks / impacts and associated mitigation measures relevant to dismantling. The preliminary program demonstrates that the primary equipment can be dismantled safely and in a way that will minimise environmental impacts, using existing techniques.

The treatment, management and disposal approach for the main equipment is presented in Sub-chapter 24.6.6 and detailed in the *Decommissioning Waste Management Proposal*, Reference [32].

#### 24.6.5.2 Dismantling of Concrete and Steel Structures

- a) Information of buildings

The generic site layout for the UK HPR1000 is based on a single unit reactor design, which is shown in F-24.6-1. The aerial view is shown in F-24.6-2.

The buildings are normal reinforced concrete structures except the internal containment which is a pre-stressed concrete structure.

The principal construction materials for civil structures are concrete, reinforcing steel, structural steel and pre-stressed tendons, etc. The materials widely used in the UK are adopted preferentially.

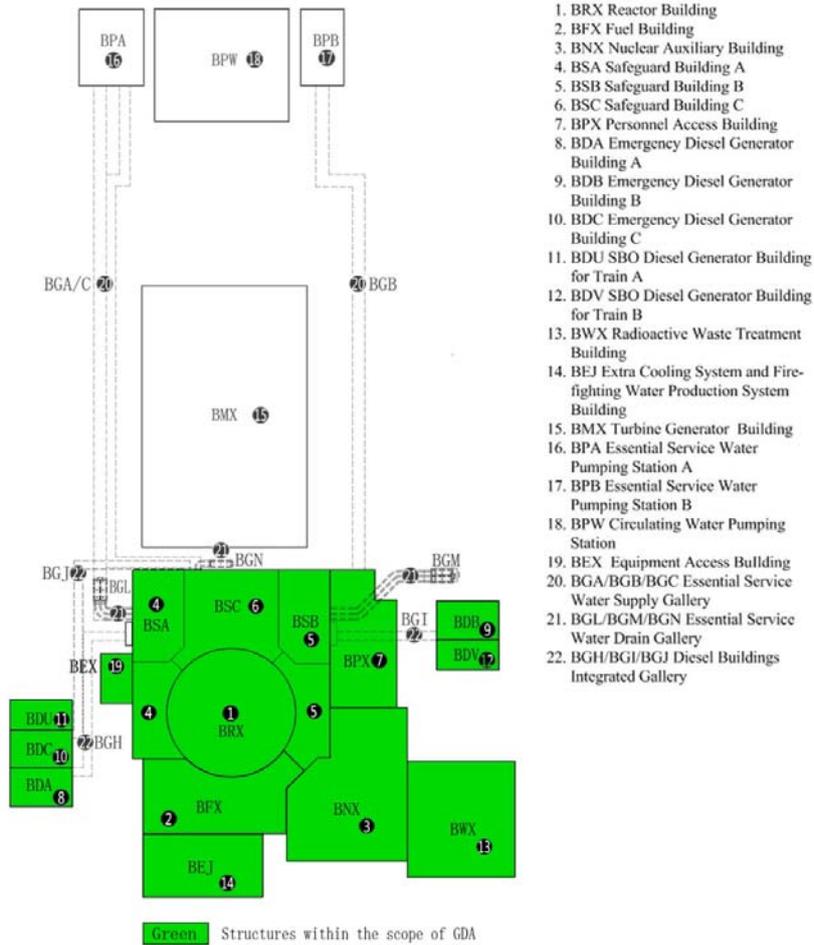
The structures are as follows:

- 1) Reactor Building (BRX), which consists of BRX internal structures, internal

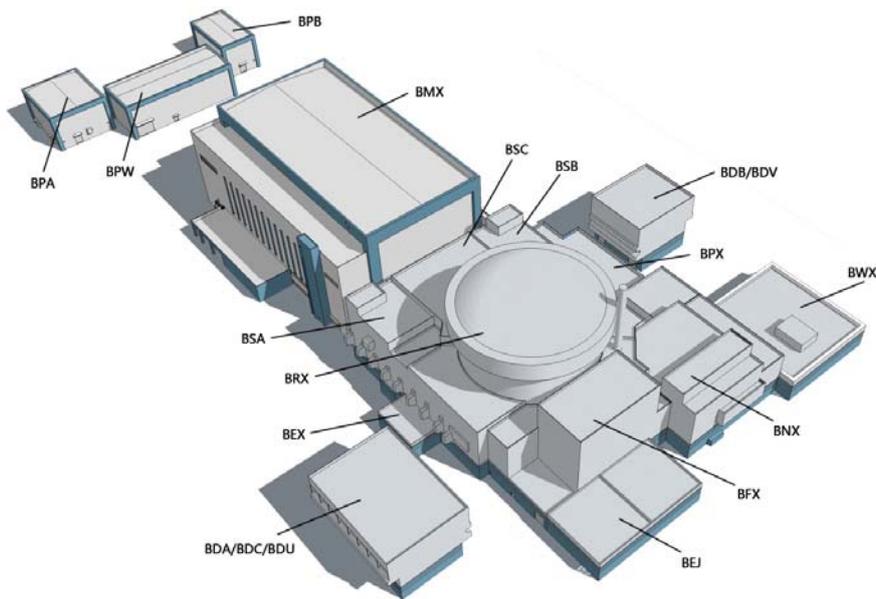
<b>UK HPR1000 GDA</b>	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 42 / 69

containment and external containments;

- 2) Safeguard buildings, which consist of Safeguard Building A (BSA), Safeguard Building B (BSB) and Safeguard Building C (BSC);
- 3) Fuel Building (BFX);
- 4) Nuclear Auxiliary Building (BNX);
- 5) Diesel generator buildings, which consist of Emergency Diesel Generator Building A (BDA), Emergency Diesel Generator Building B (BDB), Emergency Diesel Generator Building C (BDC), SBO Diesel Generator Building for Train A (BDU) and SBO Diesel Generator Building for Train B (BDV);
- 6) Radioactive Waste Treatment Building (BWX);
- 7) Extra Cooling System and Fire-fighting Water Production System Building (BEJ);
- 8) Equipment Access Building (BEX);
- 9) Personnel Access Building (BPX);
- 10) Essential Service Water Pumping Station A (BPA) and Essential Service Water Pumping Station B (BPB);
- 11) Circulating Water Pumping Station (BPW);
- 12) Essential Service Water Supply Gallery A (BGA), Essential Service Water Supply Gallery B (BGB) and Essential Service Water Supply Gallery C (BGC);
- 13) Diesel Buildings Integrated Gallery H (BGH), Diesel Buildings Integrated Gallery I (BGI) and Diesel Buildings Integrated Gallery J (BGJ);
- 14) Essential Service Water Drain Gallery L (BGL), Essential Service Water Drain Gallery M (BGM) and Essential Service Water Drain Gallery N (BGN);
- 15) Turbine Generator Building (BMX);
- 16) Other buildings.



F-24.6-1 Generic Site Layout of the UK HPR1000



F-24.6-2 Overall View of the UK HPR1000

<b>UK HPR1000 GDA</b>	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 44 / 69

b) Dismantling sequence of buildings

Buildings can be divided into two groups. The first group consists of the conventional island and non-nuclear parts of the plant. Some of the buildings are decommissioned immediately, and some existing buildings and systems are re-used for follow-up decommissioning activities where practicable and safe to do so. For example, the Turbine Hall could be converted into a waste management workshop.

The second group of buildings consists of the Reactor Building (BRX), Fuel Building (BFX), Nuclear Auxiliary Building (BNX) and Safeguard Buildings (BSA/BSB/BSC). Dismantling is performed as the following sequence:

- 1) Spent fuel removal from the BFX;
- 2) Systems and equipment are disassembled and removed after relevant decontamination;
- 3) Concrete surfaces in radioactive areas are decontaminated;
- 4) Completion of dismantling under water (e.g. reactor vessel), and dismantling of Safeguard Buildings;
- 5) Dismantling of the BFX;
- 6) Dismantling of the BNX after clean-up of all the buildings of the nuclear island;
- 7) Dismantling of the BRX from external containment to internal containment.

c) Methods of dismantling structures

According to the relevant physical principles of the particular process, the existing and proven techniques of concrete structures demolition are identified below:

1) Flame Cutting

The flame cutting process uses a torch where a heating gas (e.g. acetylene, propane or a liquid fuel) reacts with oxygen to form a heating flame. This flame heats up the material to a temperature where burning of the material can begin.

2) Plasma Arc Cutting

Plasma cutting makes use of a high-velocity high-temperature plasma (ionised gas) stream to melt the work piece and to transport the molten kerf material.

3) Laser Cutting

Laser cutting uses high-energy density light beams to heat and cut objects in a short time.

4) Mechanical cutting

<b>UK HPR1000 GDA</b>	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 45 / 69

Diamond wire sawing is a typical mechanical cutting tool for large components made out of concrete and steel.

5) Hydraulic cutting

A hydraulic ram mounted on an excavator is a very common piece of equipment in the construction and demolition industry. With the development of mechanical technology, excavators can extend to enough height and allow the ram to penetrate even the strongest reactor-grade concrete.

6) Explosive demolition

Explosive demolition is widely used in conventional building demolition.

All the above methods can be used to dismantle structures of the UK HRP1000. The choice depends on factors such as safety, dust emission, noise reduction requirement, storage requirements, secondary waste generated and hazards associated with the technique.

d) Nuclear island plant dismantling considerations

The nuclear island includes all buildings which present a radiological hazard. The scope of decommissioning of the nuclear island includes:

- 1) Reactor Building (internal containment, external containment, internal structure);
- 2) Safeguard Buildings (safeguard building A/B/C);
- 3) Fuel Building;
- 4) Nuclear Auxiliary Building;
- 5) Personnel Access Building;
- 6) Equipment Access Building;
- 7) Radioactive Waste Treatment Building.

The nuclear island buildings will be demolished after the equipment and components and have been removed.

The concrete surface in radioactive areas will be decontaminated before the structures are dismantled. Surface cleaning or scabbling to remove the surface of the concrete to a non-contaminated layer will be carried out.

The BRX consists of both internal and external containments. The walls are formed from pre-stressed concrete, with a stainless steel lining covering the internal surface sealing the structure to prevent the leakage of radioactivity. The external containment is a reinforced concrete dome covering the top of the internal containment. The external containment will be dismantled and then the internal containment demolished.

<b>UK HPR1000 GDA</b>	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 46 / 69

The other nuclear island buildings are all primarily concrete structures.

e) Dismantling consideration for conventional plant

The conventional plant includes all plant and buildings which are associated with power generation or the operation of the site and which do not present a radiological hazard. This therefore includes:

- 1) Turbine building;
- 2) Pumping station;
- 3) Substation and on-site transmission towers;
- 4) Other auxiliary buildings such as administration buildings, workshops, apartment buildings and other miscellaneous buildings on the site.

These will be decommissioned using current proven techniques for dismantling, in accordance with prevailing regulations, international guidance and best practice.

More information of building dismantling is provided in *Decommissioning Building Dismantling Proposal*, Reference [33], including worldwide dismantling technologies, main risks / impacts and associated migration measures. This demonstrates that the UK HPR1000 buildings can be dismantled safely and in a way that will minimise environmental impacts, using existing techniques.

#### **24.6.6 Waste Management**

The waste management is an important part of decommissioning of nuclear facilities. The current decommissioning radioactive waste management proposal of the UK HPR1000 during GDA has considered BAT and ALARP principles. It ensures options are not foreclosed and the licensee will improve this strategy and select the most appropriate option and demonstrate it is BAT and ALARP during the site specific stage. The detailed information regarding the decommissioning radioactive waste management proposal during GDA is presented in *Decommissioning Waste Management Proposal*, Reference [32].

##### **24.6.6.1 Decommissioning Radioactive Waste Management Principles of the UK HPR1000**

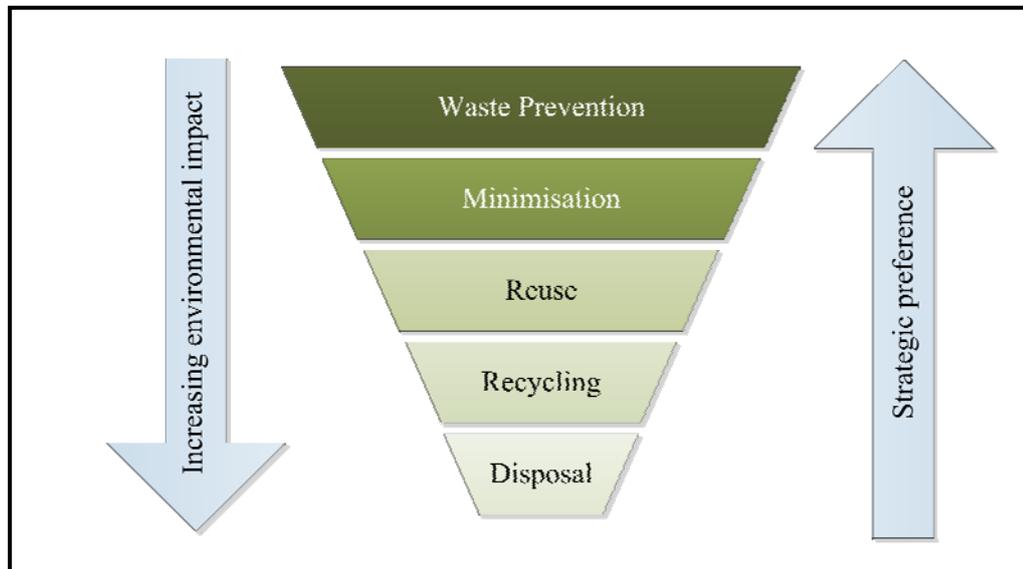
The waste hierarchy, as illustrated in F-24.6-3, will be applied to the management of all wastes arising from the construction, operation and decommissioning of the UK HPR1000. The waste hierarchy is a stepwise approach to achieve waste minimisation. It encourages the options for waste management in the following order of priority:

- a) Prevention: creation of waste should be prevented;
- b) Minimisation: waste should be reduced at source as far as possible;
- c) Reuse: where appropriate, waste materials should be reused directly or after

UK HPR1000 GDA	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 47 / 69

refurbishment;

- d) Recycling: where appropriate, waste materials should be recycled;
- e) Disposal: waste should only be disposed of when the above options are not practicable.



F-24.6-3 Waste Hierarchy

#### 24.6.6.2 Waste Inventory

##### 24.6.6.2.1 Waste Arising

When the nuclear power plant is shut down and enters the decommissioning stage, the state of the NPP is changed from normal nuclear power generation to discharge of all fuel for decontamination and demolition. At this point, the source of radioactive waste generation is quite different from that during operation, e.g. waste generated from decommissioning of main equipment.

During different decommissioning stages, different radioactive wastes will be generated, especially during the decontamination and dismantling processes. Radioactive decommissioning wastes can be divided into gaseous radioactive waste, liquid radioactive waste and solid radioactive waste.

##### a) Gaseous waste

The main sources are:

- 1) Gas produced by the chemical reaction during the decontamination process, etc.;
- 2) Airborne radioactive particulates generated during specific decommissioning operations, e.g. cutting processes.

UK HPR1000 GDA	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 48 / 69

b) Liquid waste

Liquid radioactive waste is mainly generated from the decontamination operations, physical cutting processes, and as a secondary waste resulting from decommissioning activities.

c) Solid waste

Solid radioactive waste accounts for the largest proportion of all decommissioning radioactive waste, and includes neutron-activated materials, contaminated materials and other radioactive waste. Typically, decommissioning solid radioactive waste includes, but is not limited to system equipment and components, piping, concrete, metal, secondary waste (e.g. ion exchange resins, activated charcoal from delay beds of Gaseous Waste Treatment System (TEG [GWTS])) and other miscellaneous waste generated during decommissioning activities.

Non-radioactive wastes include service systems from the turbine building and some systems from the auxiliary building, as well as material from steel/concrete structures.

#### 24.6.6.2.2 Decommissioning Radioactive Waste Inventory

Based on the decommissioning waste inventory estimation methodology presented in the *Decommissioning Waste Management Proposal*, Reference [32], the preliminary decommissioning waste inventory and categorisation are determined, which are present in Appendix B. This preliminary inventory will be updated at a relevant time in the future.

#### 24.6.6.3 Waste Management

##### 24.6.6.3.1 Gaseous or Airborne Radioactive Waste Management

There are generally low levels of radioactive gaseous or airborne effluents generated during decommissioning and these can be handled and discharged by existing (if safe to use) and temporary HVAC to ensure that discharges are minimised. The bulk of airborne activity will be particulate from material cutting and dry decontamination.

##### 24.6.3.3.2 Liquid Radioactive Waste Management

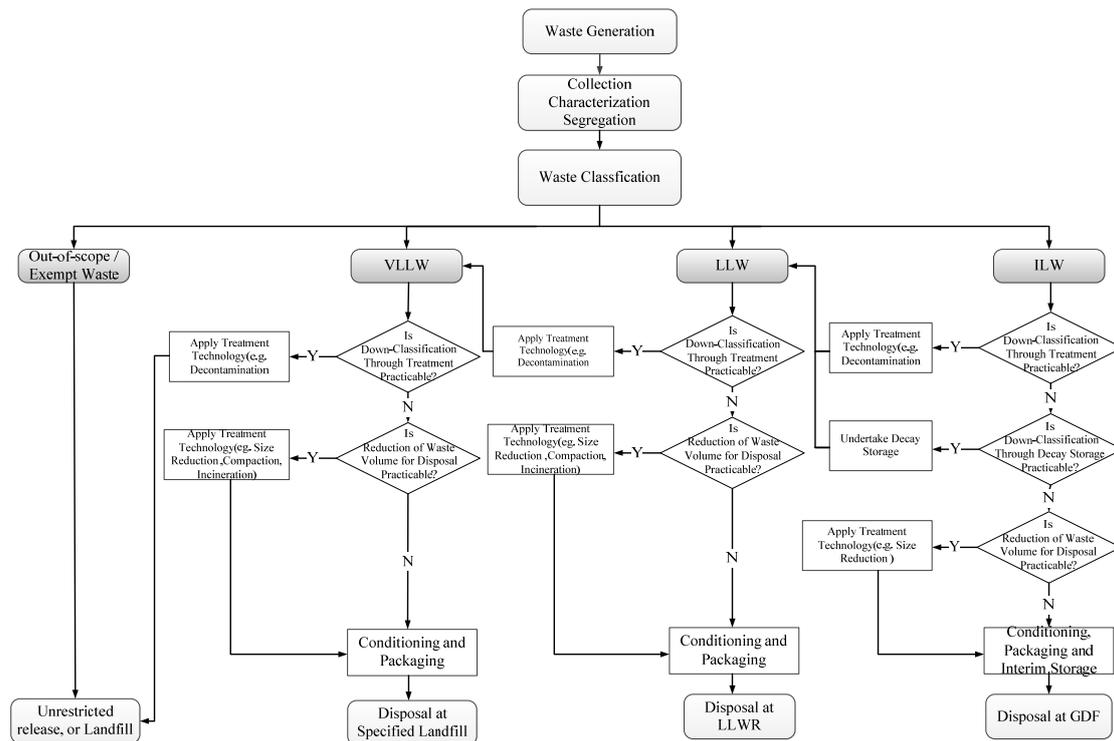
Liquid effluents will arise from decontamination and dismantling activities (water cooling for cutting for example), as well as from drains and washrooms.

In the early stages of decommissioning, radioactive liquid waste will be treated by the existing effluent management systems (if safe to use) or by temporary liquid effluent treatment facilities to ensure that liquid effluent discharges are minimised. The equipment available ranges from modular effluent clean up plant through to evaporators.

### 24.6.3.3.3 Solid Radioactive Wastes Management

#### a) Overview of solid radioactive waste management steps

Application of the waste hierarchy is a fundamental principle of the decommissioning radioactive waste management which is presented in Sub-chapter 24.6.6.1. Waste minimisation should be an essential element of radioactive waste management steps which consist of generation, characterisation and segregation, pre-treatment, treatment, conditioning, storage, transport and disposal. The various steps for the management of decommissioning solid radioactive waste are illustrated in F-24.6-4.



F-24.6-4 Hierarchy of Routes

#### b) Waste characterisation and segregation

For decommissioning solid waste management of the UK HPR1000, the future owner will adopt suitable facilities to apply waste characterisation and segregation. It will help effectively segregate the waste and helps the owner in selecting optimal management and disposal routes.

#### c) Waste treatment and conditioning

Based on existing facilities in the UK for the management and disposal of radioactive wastes, the proposal regarding the decommissioning waste treatment and conditioning is as follows:

UK HPR1000 GDA	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 50 / 69

➤ Spent resins

Spent resins from decommissioning will be treated in the same way as the operational spent resins. They will be dewatered and packaged in 500 litre robust shielded drums (e.g. MOSAIK container) with non-encapsulation. The packaged resins will then be transferred to the BQZ until the GDF is available to receive waste from the UK HPR1000.

Some of the ILW spent resins could be identified as boundary waste, which can be considered to decay into LLW in a short time. These spent resins will be immobilised by mixing them with cement in the 210 litre drum. They will then be transferred to the BQZ for decay storage and be transferred to LLWR disposal facility when they are decayed into LLW.

➤ RPV and RVIs

The ILW RPV will be immobilised with cement grout within the 4 metre boxes and the ILW RVIs will be immobilised with cement grout within the 3 cubic metre boxes. The waste packages will then be transferred to the BQZ until the GDF becomes available to receive waste from the UK HPR1000.

➤ Concrete

The ILW concrete from decommissioning will be immobilised with cement grout within the 4 meter box and then the waste packages will be transferred to the BQZ until the GDF becomes available to receive waste from the UK HPR1000.

➤ Lower Activity Waste (LAW)

The LAW generated from decommissioning will be segregated and characterised, size reduced (where possible), and then packaged into an appropriate container for UK off-site waste treatment or disposal services. These services include incineration, metal melting, super compaction and disposal.

Detailed information can be found in the *Decommissioning Waste Management Proposal*, Reference [32].

d) Interim storage

Based on UK requirements, LLW packages can be treated or disposed off-site soon after being produced and there is no dedicated LLW interim storage facility on-site.

ILW packages will need to be stored on-site in the BQZ and some ILW that are identified as boundary waste will also be stored in the BQZ. The BQZ will be designed to last for at least 100 years, as is required by UK industry guidance, Reference [34].

<b>UK HPR1000 GDA</b>	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 51 / 69

Therefore, for the UK HPR1000:

- a) LLW generated during decommissioning will be stored in a temporary storage area on-site before being sent to the off-site treatment and / or disposal facility;
- b) HAW generated during decommissioning will be stored in the on-site ILW interim storage facility before being sent to the GDF, assuming that the GDF is also not available during the UK HPR1000 decommissioning;
- c) ILW generated during decommissioning which are identified as boundary waste will be stored in the BQZ until they are decayed into LLW.

#### 24.6.3.3.4 Non-Radioactive Wastes Management

There will also be very large volumes of non-radioactive waste from the facilities decommissioning. These will consist of metals, mostly steel and copper, and concrete. The strategy for these materials is the same as operational non-radioactive waste, which is presented in Reference [35]. In order to minimise off-site transportation of waste, consideration will be given to seeking permits to infill on-site voids with demolition rubble.

#### 24.6.6.4 Waste Disposability Assessment

The GDF is under development and is not expected to be available for a number of decades. A part of the solid radioactive waste generated by the UK HPR1000 will be too radioactive to be disposed of via existing routes.

In order to minimise the risk that the conditioning and packaging of HAW generated throughout the reactor lifetime results in waste incompatible with a future GDF, disposability assessment of HAW in the UK HPR1000 is being undertaken to obtain advice from Radioactive Waste Management Ltd (UK) (RWM).

According to the GDA scope in Reference [36], only the disposability of HAW decommissioning waste will be demonstrated during GDA. The detailed information needed to undertake the disposability assessment of UK HPR1000 HAW generated during decommissioning is presented in the report *UK HPR1000 HAW disposability assessment submission*, Reference [37]. Cooperation will continue with RWM until the disposability of HAW generated during decommissioning of UK HPR1000 is demonstrated and confirmed.

#### **24.6.7 Safety Management**

Identification, elimination or control of hazards and risks/impacts is a key aspect in decommissioning, and this includes the hazards and risks/impacts to workers, environment and the public. Systems and devices designed for the operational phase may become ineffective during the decommissioning stage. For example some control systems will become redundant but others need to retain their function. Therefore the adequacy of safety measures needs to be re-evaluated as the work proceeds. New

UK HPR1000 GDA	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 52 / 69

potential hazards and risks/impacts need to be identified and new safety measures and environmental protection measures should be adopted as necessary. Additional health and safety precautions will need to be implemented as decommissioning involves changing and evolving processes on the site and large numbers of temporary workers or augmented labour. A new organisation structure and administrative arrangements will need to be adopted. In addition, there are conventional safety risks associated with decommissioning and the use of dismantling techniques, e.g. use of lasers. Different decommissioning methods produce different hazards. In order to identify the potential hazards during decommissioning, the relevant process and activities are preliminarily analysed. Major hazards and risks/impacts from decommissioning and their mitigation measures are presented below.

#### 24.6.7.1 Hazards and Risks/Impacts during Decommissioning

The overall UK HPR1000 hazards identification and assessment process is considered in PCSR Chapter 18 External Hazards and Chapter 19 Internal Hazards, and the decommissioning conventional safety can be found in PCSR Chapter 25 Conventional Safety and Fire Safety. In addition, based on learning from *OPEX on Decommissioning*, Reference [24], *Safety Assessment for the Decommissioning of Facilities Using Radioactive Material*, Reference [22], *Decontamination Processes and Techniques during Decommissioning*, Reference [30], *Preliminary Disassembly Program for the Main Equipment Decommissioning*, Reference [31], and *Decommissioning Building Dismantling Proposal*, Reference [33], the foreseeable main hazards and risks/impacts of the UK HPR1000 decommissioning are preliminarily identified together with and suitable measures available to reduce risks to be capable of ALARP levels.

There are kinds of hazards, only typical decommissioning related hazards, such as dropped loads, fire and explosion, and some risks/impacts are focused on in this sub-chapter. With the development of the decommissioning safety case, identification of risks/hazards and associated mitigation measures needs to be further developed.

##### a) Radiological risks

Worker dose from decontamination processes, cutting and removal of items, transfer of materials (reactor internals) and waste management, etc.

##### b) Internal fire

There is a possibility of fire if there are combustible materials present in rooms. During decommissioning, flammable materials and the use of electrical equipment can lead to fire.

##### c) Explosion

Internal explosions could occur within the NPP site. For example, when explosive material leaks into the environment or high voltage electrical equipment fails, an

<b>UK HPR1000 GDA</b>	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 53 / 69

explosion may occur. During decommissioning, explosions can also be triggered by cutting or demolition activities.

d) Dropped load

Potential dropped loads include collapsed structures, falling objects and components. For seismically classified structures and heavy items of plant equipment located at significant heights, collapsing or falling can be prevented. Dropped loads are assumed to occur as a result of a lifting device failure.

e) Human error

Human error may occur in decommissioning activities, such as in decontamination, disassembling and dismantling of SSCs.

#### 24.6.7.2 Control Measures

Suitable measures should be taken to control or mitigate the identified hazards according to the UK regulations, which include engineering measures, management measures, training and personal protective equipment, etc.

Facilitating decommissioning activities at the design stage aims at reducing risks/impacts from UK HPR1000 decommissioning. Relevant information is provided in PCSR Sub-chapter 24.4 and in Reference [25]. Other available control measures and mitigation during decommissioning will be considered and implemented as relevant, with examples provided below.

a) Radiological protection

Protection and mitigation measures for radiological risks include:

- 1) Radiological characterisation before dismantling;
- 2) Adequate planning the activities and avoiding as far as possible concurrent activities in the same area;
- 3) Performing decontamination before dismantling;
- 4) Use of underwater cutting, especially for RVI;
- 5) Use of remote controlled equipment/tools;
- 6) Adequate provision of shielding/Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

b) Internal fire

Protection and mitigation measures for internal fire include:

- 1) Fire qualification of materials used in decommissioning.
- 2) Employing low flammability or high flash-point fuel and lubrication oils where reasonably practicable. Where this is not possible, the use of bunds will be

<b>UK HPR1000 GDA</b>	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 54 / 69

employed to ensure any leakage of oil is locally contained;

- 3) Passive fire protection measures for high fire load equipment and systems;
- 4) Controlling electrical equipment ignition sources through application of appropriate standards;
- 5) When there is a fire in the plant, mitigation measures will be taken immediately. To make sure the fire can be detected and extinguished as soon as possible, three fire protection systems are incorporated in the design:
  - Fire detection systems;
  - Fire-fighting systems;
  - Smoke control systems.

c) Explosion

Protection and mitigation measures for internal explosion include:

- 1) Avoiding or managing the release of explosive gases from processes which generate these gases;
- 2) Limiting the use of explosive materials or pressurised tanks so far as is reasonably practicable in buildings important to safety. Where this is not possible, amounts are strictly limited to the necessary quantity;
- 3) An explosive gas detection system with a concentration safety margin;
- 4) An alarm system which will warn the operator of the concentration of explosive gas.

d) Dropped load

Protection and mitigation measures for dropped load include:

- 1) Periodic inspection and early detection of incipient failure;
- 2) Operational procedures and operator training to reduce the human error;
- 3) Preventing loads from being carried over or near equipment that may lead to radioactive release when struck;
- 4) Defining a safe lifting route should be defined;
- 5) Defining a single straight-line movement of the crane for all major lifts, is defined;
- 6) Limiting lifting heights.

e) Human error

<b>UK HPR1000 GDA</b>	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 55 / 69

Protection and mitigation measures for human errors include:

- 1) Consideration of human factors in the design stage, e.g. the corridor and entrance for personnel to approach the main components during decommissioning are provided in Reference [25];
- 2) Preliminary decommissioning plan is prepared in Reference [28], which reminds the licensee to periodically update to take into account technological development of decommissioning;
- 3) Development of decommissioning organisation to enhance work/health/training management and safety culture.

#### 24.6.7.3 Organisation for Decommissioning

The licensee should make sure that an effective safety management organisation is established and maintained to ensure safe and effective decommissioning of facilities. There are major changes needed in the organisation when the plant changes from operation to decommissioning stage which should be reflected in a revised organisational structure.

Included in this change is the change of emergency arrangements. Although the overall hazard will decrease, changes in hazards and new hazards generated by the decommissioning process (e.g. hot cutting processes), mean that the emergency arrangements will need revising at regular intervals. There will also be new workers on-site that will need to be adequately trained and briefed on all safety aspects.

The licensee should learn from the experience in radiological and conventional safety of other decommissioning projects and improve and adapt the safety measures and safety management to minimise the risks. A decommissioning safety case for decommissioning operations will be produced in accordance with the overall safety case before the decommissioning stage and the safety case will be maintained until delicensing of the site.

#### 24.6.8 Delicensing

The end state for the UK HPR1000 is not fixed at this time, and will be agreed by the licensee with relevant stakeholders during the decommissioning stage. The Decommissioning Strategy and Plan presented here assume that any site with a UK HPR1000 will be decommissioned such that the site can be delicensed.

The end-point of decommissioning includes decommissioning of all facilities including the Interim Storage Facilities.

The end state is where all licensable activities have ceased and the site licence is revoked and the period of responsibility under the Nuclear Installation Act (1965) has ended i.e. delicensing. The licensee will need to demonstrate there is no danger from ionising radiation. When there are no other interim or reuse states agreed, this end

UK HPR1000 GDA	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 56 / 69

state should be assumed by the licensee and relevant stakeholders.

## 24.7 Records and Knowledge Management

Documents and records that may be required for decommissioning purposes are to be identified, prepared, updated, retained, and owned so that they will be available when needed. The process of producing and preserving these documents and records starts at the design stage and will continue throughout the whole lifecycle. The records need to be in an appropriate form, taking account of the long timescales over which they may need to be retained and accessed.

Knowledge management is an integrated, systematic approach to identifying, managing and sharing an organisation's knowledge and enabling groups of people to create new knowledge collectively to help in achieving the organisation's objectives. Knowledge management focuses on three aspects:

- a) Organisational culture to stimulate and nurture sharing and use of knowledge;
- b) Processes or methods to find, create, capture and share knowledge;
- c) Technology to store and make knowledge accessible;

For decommissioning, knowledge and record management has three objectives:

- a) Guarantee technical quality and safety standards;
- b) Minimise risk during decommissioning;
- c) Carry out effective training and enhance worker's competence.

### 24.7.1 Design, Construction and Commissioning Stage

The following records must be considered for potential use at the decommissioning stage during the design, construction and commissioning stages:

- a) Design documents, design specifications, drawings and charts related to siting, design, construction and modification;
- b) A site survey that provides characterisation of radiological conditions on the site. Baseline surveys should consider both surface and sub-surface conditions as well as groundwater. Any soil or geotechnical issues not conforming to the specification should be recorded;
- c) Photos and videos for important construction and installation processes need to be recorded, supplied with captions, dates and annotations, such as earthwork & stonework, particularly for concealed structure construction;
- d) Supporting samples of materials should be taken so that they can be used to identify original constituency, and then following operation understand the levels of corrosion, activation and contamination;

<b>UK HPR1000 GDA</b>	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 57 / 69

- e) Any concessions or changes to the design and materials should be noted and recorded. As built drawings should be produced at the end of construction;
- f) Any modification to the design, structures, systems and components during the commissioning stage should be noted and recorded.

### **24.7.2 Operational Stage**

During the operational stage, the licensee of the plant will be responsible for collecting and maintaining records for future decommissioning. The records include:

- a) Operational history (including incident records);
- b) Radiological characterisation;
- c) Radioactive substances and radioactive waste quantities, locations, condition, with specific focus at the end of normal operations;
- d) Radioactive waste treatment and disposal records, e.g. the HAW records to meet the RWM requirements for wastes to be disposed of;
- e) The physical condition of the facility, including examination, maintenance, inspection and testing records;
- f) The detailed records of modification and overhauling during the operational stage.

### **24.7.3 Decommissioning Stage**

The following is required during the decommissioning stage:

- a) Decommissioning plan and other relevant reports;
- b) The detailed records of decommissioning;
- c) Waste treatment and disposal records.

### **24.7.4 Records and Knowledge Management Techniques**

The decommissioning document information should be protectively stored and available for update, examination for the full lifecycle of the plant. Document records include drawings, diagrams and photographic records (particularly from construction of the plant) produced over the reactor lifetime.

Data gathering and information storage should be implemented and maintained with appropriate technology, from the beginning of the project design stage.

Knowledge management for decommissioning is necessary and important, and it should be well planned through all the life stages of nuclear facilities. A decommissioning project requires knowledge from previous stages, including modifications made to the facilities and any differences from what the design intent

<b>UK HPR1000 GDA</b>	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 58 / 69

was. Appropriate technical expertise and experience contribute significantly to this.

Three approaches are useful for decommissioning knowledge management:

- a) Establishment of knowledge acquisition methods necessary for decommissioning
  - 1) Extraction and arrangement for data and information from international decommissioning research results;
  - 2) Organisation and systematisation of information by establishing rules and methods to extract necessary information from plant specific data;
  - 3) Establishment of knowledge extraction methods based on the decommissioning taxonomy.
- b) Formulation of knowledge acquisition from experienced engineers
  - 1) Externalisation of implicit knowledge of employees along with their occupational history;
  - 2) Establishment of methods for extraction of knowledge and know-how from communication with experienced employees such as questionnaires, interviews or event simulations for socialisation and externalisation.
- c) Construction of a management system
  - 1) Enhancement of information access system by knowledge engineering technologies;
  - 2) Enhancement of knowledge internalisation of present workers by discussion meetings;
  - 3) Establishment of knowledge transfer by special lectures or training by retiring workers;
  - 4) Knowledge transfer support from retirees by continuous communication even after retirement;
  - 5) Information exchange with other decommissioning facilities.

In PCSR Chapter 20 MSQA and Safety Case Management, management system and quality assurance are presented, including safety culture, personnel allocation and training, knowledge and experience feedback, document and record control.

## **24.8 ALARP Assessment**

Decommissioning will occur at least 60 years post-GDA, but considering the complexity of decommissioning large nuclear power plants, ALARP/BAT have been considered in UK HPR1000 during GDA in an appropriate manner and form, to assist the future licensee to decommission its plant in a way that can be demonstrated ALARP and BAT.

<b>UK HPR1000 GDA</b>	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 59 / 69

OPEX from worldwide PWR decommissioning projects has been examined and RGP identified in Reference [16] is adopted as appropriate, which provides guidance to decommissioning of the UK HPR1000. OPEX on decommissioning in Reference [24], design for facilitating decommissioning in Reference [25] and the preliminary decommissioning plan in Reference [28] contribute to demonstrating that the risks/impacts associated with decommissioning of the UK HPR1000 are capable of being demonstrated as ALARP/ BAT.

Consistent with the ALARP methodology specified in PCSR Chapter 33 and BAT methodology specified in PCER Chapter 3 in Reference [7], the ALARP/BAT principles have been taken into account in the decommissioning area, and are demonstrated in PCSR Chapter 24 and in relevant supporting documents.

a) Design for facilitating decommissioning based on RGP and OPEX has been identified and will continue to be developed during the GDA phase (and subsequent phases), to ensure that risks for decommissioning will be ALARP, impacts on the environment and the public during decommissioning are minimised through application of BAT. PCSR Sub-chapter 24.4 provides a general view of how the design is developed to take account of decommissioning through a series of aspects: site selection, general layout, selection of materials, equipment design, process design, building and structure design, layout design, waste management and radiological protection. Examples of these are as follow:

- 1) Elements susceptible to activation are minimised;
- 2) Pre-stressed concrete is only used for internal containment;
- 3) Biological shielding walls/doors are used to reduce the exposure;
- 4) Consideration of removing SGs in one piece.

More evidence is provided in the Supporting Document in Reference [25].

b) The decommissioning strategy and a preliminary decommissioning plan are prepared based on RGP and OPEX identified during the GDA phase to ensure that risks for decommissioning will be reduced to ALARP and impacts on the environment and the public will be minimised.

- 1) Relevant safety criteria (including dose/hazards/conventional risks) and environmental criteria (including discharges, waste management) are considered when selecting the decommissioning strategy;
- 2) An initial identification of major risks/hazards/impacts from decommissioning of the UK HPR1000 and their possible mitigation measures are listed in the preliminary decommissioning plan according to relevant OPEX;
- 3) Decontamination, main equipment disassembly, building dismantling

UK HPR1000 GDA	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 60 / 69

information and decommissioning waste management proposals are provided and the major hazards and risks/impacts related to key activities and associated possible mitigation measures are preliminarily identified in References [30], [31], and [33].

- 4) Applicable measures to reduce risks/hazards to ALARP and minimise impacts on the environment and the public that relate to the design stage are taken into account as part of the design features to facilitate decommissioning (as and when appropriate).

In addition, since the SGs are the largest equipment in the BRX and their dismantling poses difficulties, the supporting document *Dismantling Example Analysis of Steam Generator* is provided in Reference [38], including analysis of decontamination, dismantling, risks and associated mitigation measures. This is a typical example to demonstrate that decommissioning of the UK HPR1000 is applicable to be ALARP based on current technologies and OPEX.

It is not expected to produce a detailed BAT/ALARP demonstration for decommissioning during GDA, due to the inherent uncertainties in planning for a phase at least 60 years post-GDA e.g. development of decommissioning techniques. However, the related considerations benefit the future licensee, and the licensee should develop the detailed BAT/APARP demonstration before the final outage. In addition, options for future licensees have not been foreclosed.

## 24.9 Concluding Remarks

Based on decommissioning OPEX, and according to the UK context, the information important to decommissioning of the UK HPR1000 is presented in this chapter. This includes the design for facilitating the decommissioning, decommissioning strategy, the decommissioning plan, preliminary identification of risks/impacts and associated mitigation measures, etc. This chapter demonstrates that the generic design for the UK HPR1000 can be safely and effectively decommissioned at the end of its operational life. The UK HPR1000 are designed, and will be constructed and operated so that it can be decommissioned reducing the risks/impacts on the workers, public and environment, so far as is reasonably practicable.

The ALARP and BAT considerations are taken into account for UK HPR1000 decommissioning during GDA in an appropriate manner and form, to assist the future licensee to decommission its plant in a way that can be demonstrated ALARP and BAT. The ALARP/BAT approach will be considered in all aspects of decommissioning.

The requirements of the GDA phase and different regulatory regimes between the UK and China are identified for the UK HPR1000 project to ensure that decommissioning is developed to meet the UK requirements.

<b>UK HPR1000 GDA</b>	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 61 / 69

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<b>UK HPR1000 GDA</b>	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 62 / 69

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<b>UK HPR1000 GDA</b>	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 63 / 69

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### Appendix 24A Route Map of Decommissioning

Claim	Sub-claim	Contents/ Supporting documents
Claim 5.1	5.1.SC24.1      The UK HPR1000 design features facilitate safe and effective decommissioning.	Sub-chapter 24.4
		<i>Consistency Evaluation for Design of Facilitating Decommissioning</i>
	5.1.SC24.2      Documents and records required for decommissioning are identified and under preliminary preparation.	Sub-chapter 24.4
	5.1.SC24.3      Faults and hazards of UK HPR1000 decommissioning are identified and assessed, and risks are shown to be capable of being ALARP.	Sub-chapter 24.6.7  <i>Preliminary Decommissioning Plan;</i>  <i>Decontamination process and techniques during decommissioning;</i>  <i>Preliminary disassembly program for the main equipment decommissioning;</i>  <i>Decommissioning building dismantling proposal;</i>  <i>Decommissioning waste management proposal;</i>

Claim	Sub-claim	Contents/ Supporting documents
	5.1.SC24.4      The UK HPR1000 can be decommissioned using current methods and technologies.	Sub-chapter 24.6
		<i>OPEX on decommissioning;</i> <i>Preliminary decommissioning plan;</i> <i>Decontamination process and techniques during decommissioning;</i> <i>Preliminary disassembly program for the main equipment decommissioning;</i> <i>Decommissioning building dismantling proposal;</i> <i>Decommissioning waste management proposal;</i>
Claim 5.2	5.2.SC24.5      Proper preliminary decommissioning plans/strategies are prepared.	Sub-chapter 24.5 Sub-chapter 24.6
		<i>Preliminary Decommissioning Plan (including decommissioning strategy);</i>
	5.2.SC24.6      Disposal routes are available (or will be available) for waste arising during decommissioning.	Sub-chapter 24.6.6.3
		<i>Decommissioning waste management proposal;</i>

<b>UK HPR1000 GDA</b>	Pre-Construction Safety Report Chapter 24 Decommissioning	UK Protective Marking: Not Protectively Marked	
		Rev: 001	Page: 66 / 69

Claim	Sub-claim	Contents/ Supporting documents
		<i>UK HPR1000 HAW Disposability Assessment Submission;</i>
	5.2.SC24.7      The decommissioning plan will be developed to reflect developments in technologies and experiences, to ensure that the timing and methods adopted for decommissioning are safe and protect the environment.	Sub-chapter 24.6
		<i>Preliminary Decommissioning Plan;</i>

**Appendix 24B Decommissioning Waste Inventory**

NO.	Classification	Component and Equipment	Volume(m <sup>3</sup> )	Mass(t)	Waste Classification
1	Main Equipment	{			

NO.	Classification	Component and Equipment	Volume(m <sup>3</sup> )	Mass(t)	Waste Classification
					}
		{            }	1834.9*	2859.5*	ILW/LLW
2	Auxiliary Equipment & Piping				
					}
		{            }	6257.8	3437.9	LLW/VLLW
3	Concrete				

NO.	Classification	Component and Equipment	Volume(m <sup>3</sup> )	Mass(t)	Waste Classification
					}
		{ }	3381.2	8453.0	ILW/LLW/VLLW
4	Metal	{ }	141.3	1109.2	LLW/VLLW
5	Secondary Waste	{ }			
					}
		{ }	54.4	34.4	ILW/LLW
6	Miscellaneous Waste	{ }	609.0	300.0	LLW/VLLW
7		Total	12279	16194	ILW/LLW/VLLW

\* The volume of reactor coolant pumps will be updated after the final type of reactor coolant pumps is determined.