Decommissioning is a carefully planned, methodical process that takes several years to complete. It entails the removal and disposal of radioactive components and materials and the cleanup of any contamination that may remain on the site. The site will be surveyed to ensure it is free of contamination, backfilled, graded, and seeded.

ZionSolutions will conduct the work as owner and licensee. With the support and resources of its parent company, EnergySolutions, ZionSolutions brings 25+ years of experience in all phases of decommissioning activities.

Until there is a disposition path for the country’s inventory of spent nuclear fuel, Zion Station’s spent fuel will be stored on the property, away from the lakeshore and will not be visible. Security officers and state-of-the-art surveillance systems will be in place at the fuel storage facility around the clock.

When decommissioning is complete, and the site has been released for unrestricted reuse (with the exception of the electrical switchyard and the spent fuel storage facility), ownership will be transferred back to Exelon.

Quick Facts

- All low-level radioactive waste generated in the Zion Station decommissioning project will be disposed of outside Illinois.
- ZionSolutions will hold and be responsible for compliance with the Zion Station NRC licenses for the duration of decommissioning.
- Decommissioning work has been performed safely and successfully at 10 U.S. commercial nuclear power plants and more than 40 research facilities.
- EnergySolutions has managed the shipment of more than 80 large components.
- The NRC will engage an independent verification contractor to monitor ZionSolutions performance and to confirm that the site meets the NRC’s criteria for license termination.

Regulatory oversight is provided by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. A number of other federal and state agencies also play significant roles in ensuring the health and safety of workers and the public, including the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Department of Transportation (DOT), Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA), and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA).

For more information:

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