

A. J. Blotcky Reactor Facility Decommissioning

Client	Omaha VA Medical Center
Location	Omaha, NE
Completed	May 2016
NRC	NRC License Number R-57 terminated July 2016
Health & Safety	Zero NRC Violations or OSHA Recordable Injuries



Nuclear Reactor Facility Decommissioning

NorthStar was selected as the prime contractor to decommission the A.J. Blotcky Reactor Facility (AJBRF) within the Omaha VA Medical Center. Owner requirements included termination of Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) operating License Number R-57 and unrestricted release of the reactor facility and adjacent areas. The Omaha VAMC facility, where the AJBRF was located, will continue to function as a VA hospital post decommissioning.

NorthStar completed the decontamination and decommissioning (D&D), including complete dismantlement, disposal and site restoration of AJBRF. The facility housed a low-power Mark I Training, Research, Isotopes, General Atomics (TRIGA) nuclear research reactor. NRC license termination was completed on July 22, 2016.



The TRIGA reactor assembly was located in a below-ground 20 foot deep steel reactor pool/tank structure with only vertical access to the core. The reactor assembly contained a graphite-reflected fixed core constructed of aluminum resting on a platform that raises the lower edge of the assembly about 2 feet above the tank floor.

The reactor assembly and portions of the reactor tank and surrounding concrete were radioactive due to neutron activation during reactor operations.

NorthStar's Scope of Work Included:

- NRC License Termination for Site Redevelopment
- Radiological Waste Removal and Management
- Reactor Component Removal
- Activated & Contaminated Concrete Removal
- Facility and Auxiliary Systems Removal
- Facility Decontamination
- Radiological Waste Transportation and Disposal

Final Status Survey

The AJBRF was divided into survey units consistent with the classifications established in the Decommissioning Plan and Final Status Survey (FSS) Plan. Surveys were conducted by qualified survey technicians using instrumentation with sufficient sensitivity to observe levels of radioactivity at the prescribed fraction on the screening criteria. During the FSS, the NRC conducted independent and in-process inspections of the decommissioning activities and a confirmatory radiological survey. **The FSS was received by the NRC and the AJBRF License was formally terminated on Friday July 22, 2016.**

Facility Demolition and Site Restoration

NorthStar completed the demolition and restoration of the facility that included repairs to the concrete floor, backfilling of trenches, pits, former reactor tank with flowable fill and plugged or capped pipe and ventilation system penetrations. The facility structures were radiologically released thru the Final Status Survey.

