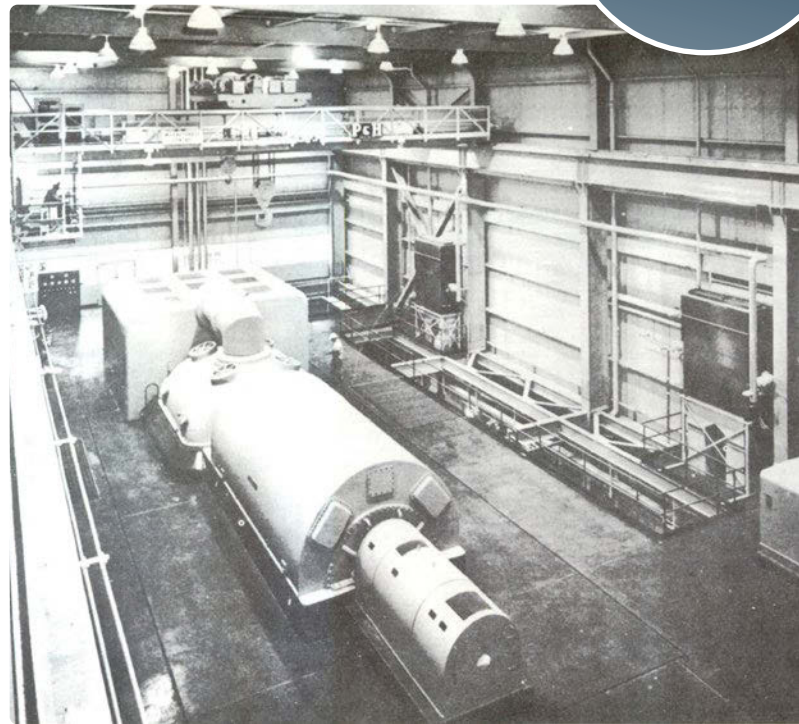




To this day, various reactor components and materials, including the reactor vessel, are entombed on-site in three storage areas. According to the Department of Energy, “Documents describing the layout and dimensions of the former reactor building, location of the buried reactor vessel, and detailed engineering information are sealed in stainless steel boxes that are secured in two locations at the site.”

The DOE further estimates that “the decommissioned reactor can be released for unrestricted use around the year 2070,” according to decay and dose calculations, 101 years after Hallam’s decommissioning was completed. The DOE regularly collects groundwater samples from the site to ensure there is no groundwater contamination. Estimates indicate that by 2071, groundwater monitoring can be discontinued. ✕

Jeremy Hampshire is an ANS member whose avocation is writing about nuclear science and technology’s history. His experience includes time as a lead nuclear quality assurance auditor and a senior nuclear technical advisor.



The Hallam turbine generator that was supplied steam from the conventional coal boiler and the nuclear reactor plant. (Photo: U.S. AEC/public domain)

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