

AMEC 1.2: Development of mobile technology for treatment at remote sites of liquid radioactive waste associated with Nuclear Submarine decommissioning.

Description:

Some of the nuclear submarines awaiting decommissioning are moored in remote locations and are no longer operational. When decommissioned, the liquid waste produced has a very high salt content in addition to its radioactive components. Existing and planned permanent land-based facilities have inadequate capability to process waste, and access to these remote sites by waste transport vessels is limited. Therefore, a specialized mobile liquid waste processing facility is critical to the decommissioning process for these submarines.

Status/Accomplishments:

The Principals intersessionally approved this project in February 1999.

Relationship to CTR:

This mobile facility complements CTR efforts by allowing onsite liquid waste treatment of complex solutions of radioactive and non-radioactive components associated with actions undertaken in decommissioning certain submarines, including fuel and reactor compartment removal. These submarines can then be safely towed to the dismantlement site.

International Agreement:

Full implementation of this project is contingent upon the conclusion of the proposed AMEC trilateral agreement.

National Security Issues:

The proper handling and treatment of liquid radioactive wastes is a high priority with our NATO ally, Norway. In the past, the former Soviet Union disposed of liquid radioactive waste in the neighboring seas, particularly the Barents Sea. The mobile facility will allow processing of liquid waste at remote sites inaccessible to liquid waste transport vessels and not treatable at existing liquid waste treatment facilities

Timeline:

February 1, 1999 to February 1, 2001 ----Total Months: 24

Funding Matrix:

	FY 97	FY98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	Total
US Project Requirements (\$ in thousands)	0	200	800	500	200	0	\$1,700