

## **CHALK RIVER LABORATORIES – DECOMMISSIONING PROGRESS**

**C. Griener**

Canadian Nuclear Laboratories, Chalk River, Ontario, Canada

[caley.griener@cnl.ca](mailto:caley.griener@cnl.ca)

### **Abstract**

As a result of the restructuring of Atomic Energy of Canada (AECL) and the implementation of a Government Owned – Contractor Operated (GOCO) model, a new vision for the Chalk River Laboratories (CRL) Campus was established, which required the significant acceleration of decommissioning activities to allow the transformation of the lab into a research campus.

To enable this transformation, the Facilities Decommissioning (FD) division implemented significant change to the organizational structure and execution strategy, promptly expanding the team by 200% and moving to a self-performing execution philosophy.

In the four years since the start of this transformation, over 70 structures have been removed from the CRL site. The primary initial focus centered on skills development and removing lower hazard facilities to clear space for the Capital New Build program, while also driving down the risk of some of the most hazardous facilities on site.

In support of the acceleration of decommissioning activities, new approaches to planning were implemented. Increased interaction with the Regulator, an Integrated Work Control Procedure, and in depth rolling wave planning were established to ensure the plan could be executed safely, on time, and on budget.

In the four years since the implementation of the GOCO model, CRL FD has developed into a leader in the safe execution of nuclear decommissioning, and has made significant process in enabling the transformation of the CRL site into a world class nuclear research center.

**Keywords:** Decommissioning, transformation