

## **Site Decommissioning: Sustainable Practices for the Use of Resources - SD: SPUR (RP705)**

The aim of the project is to establish safe, socially, economically and environmentally sustainable practices in the use of construction resources arising from nuclear site decommissioning. Site decommissioning will result in large amounts of demolition material that will require management. Using existing waste management options, which were not created, to specifically deal with the current situation, an increasingly unsustainable situation could develop. This could lead to large expense for taxpayers, depletion of existing disposal facilities and the loss of value from potentially high quality materials

The project builds on a scoping study [http://www.safegrounds.com/other\\_information](http://www.safegrounds.com/other_information), which was sponsored by the DTI Safety Issues Task Force, managed by CIRIA and supported by UKAEA, Prof Peter Guthrie of Cambridge University and The Environment Council. This study initiated a stakeholder dialogue and undertook a preliminary assessment of the amounts of material in question. An investigation was also carried out of sustainable practices already adopted in the construction industry.

As a result of this study it became clear that there was a significant amount of further research and development work to be done, in order to make progress towards establishing sustainable solutions for the benefit of all stakeholders. It was also clear that to effectively achieve these solutions any further work would have to continue as a stakeholder dialogue. The SD: SPUR project has been developed to meet these needs.

### **Project aims**

- Maintain stakeholder engagement throughout the process to take account of views, help build trust and achieve buy-in into the solutions put forward
- Develop quantification to provide more specific data on categories of waste materials arising and the construction materials required for new-build. This work will look to provide further detail (compared to the scoping study) for the Dounreay nuclear site and additional general data for other UK nuclear sites, so as to develop an appreciation of the scale of the problem nationally; and
- Apply sustainability principles to waste management and resource use planning scenarios

### **Project status**

Work on the project commenced in November 2003. Since this time, work has been focussed upon:

1. recruitment of the Project Team and Project Steering Group
2. development of a project workplan and consultation plan
3. development of a specification for work to be sub-contracted out

### **Project funders**

RMC Environment Fund, BNFL, UKAEA, British Energy, and AWE

### **Research Contractor**

CIRIA are currently in the process of recruiting a research contractor to assist in the delivery of the project.