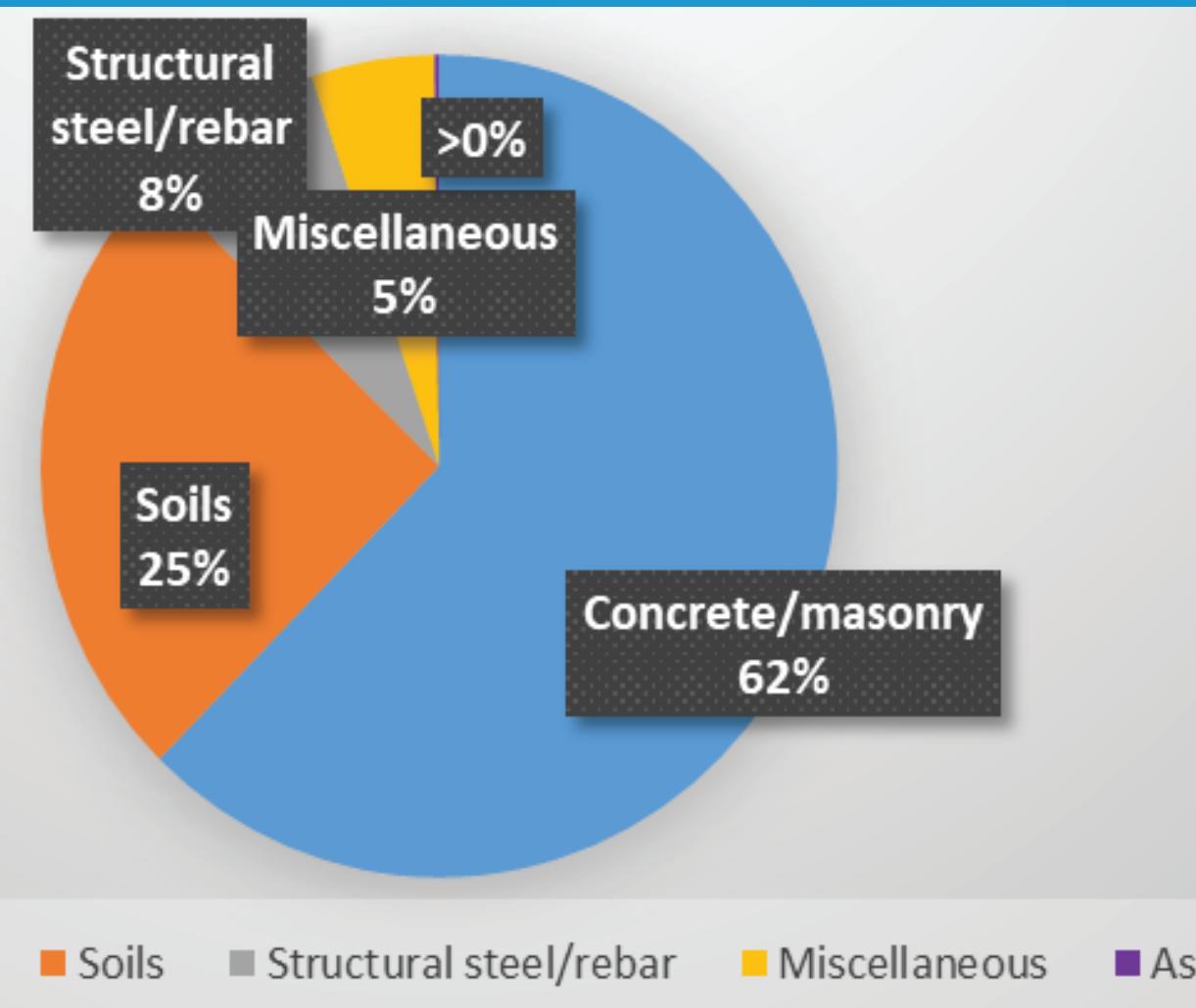


Douglas Point Decommissioning

Top Questions



What materials will be generated from the first stage of decommissioning?



What will the site look like after decommissioning?

CNL is engaging with public stakeholders and Indigenous communities and is listening to ideas and concerns about the future of the Douglas Point site. While a final decision on the site's future is up to the owner, AECL, that decision will be informed by what is learned from the public and Indigenous communities.

Who is CNL?

Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) is a science and technology organization based in Chalk River, Ontario, with smaller sites across Canada, including the Douglas Point facility. CNL operates under a Government-owned, Contractor-operated management model, also known as a GoCo model. Under this model, AECL, a federal Crown corporation, maintains ownership of all sites, which are managed by CNL. CNL is the operator and licensee of the Douglas Point facility (a prototype reactor and its associated structure) and is in full control of day-to-day safe operations of the site.

Who is overseeing this process?

No work will be undertaken on this project unless it is approved by Canada's nuclear regulator, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission.

Where will the waste go?

CNL is committed to safe management and disposal of all materials from the Douglas Point facility. All materials will be sorted and managed according to the following categories.

Material that is not radioactive or is not a designated substance will be recycled, reused or sent to a community landfill. We anticipate that 90% of this will be reused or recycled.

Designated substances such as asbestos or lead (that is not radioactive) will be disposed of off-site at specialized facilities that are licensed to receive and handle this type of industrial waste.

Radioactive waste is divided into low level, intermediate and high level categories.

◊ Low level radioactive waste (that can be safely handled with minimal protection) such as building materials and soil, will be carefully packaged, and then sent to Chalk River Laboratories.

◊ Intermediate level waste, such as reactor components, will also be sent to Chalk River Laboratories.

◊ High level waste – used fuel – will eventually be sent to a facility being developed by the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO).

Why transport radioactive waste to Chalk River?

Waste generated from decommissioning the Douglas Point facility belongs to Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL), a federal crown corporation. Under the Nuclear Safety and Control Act, which is the Canadian legislation regulating the development, production and use of nuclear energy and the production, possession and use of nuclear substances, any nuclear waste produced is the responsibility of the owner, which in this case is AECL. Since both the Douglas Point site and the Chalk River Laboratories site are owned by AECL, transporting the waste to established waste management facilities at Chalk River enables the consolidation of this waste in one spot. Given the stringent safety, security and licensing requirements that govern waste facilities, it makes sense to consolidate all radioactive waste at the Chalk River Laboratories site.



Waste Management Area at Chalk River Laboratories