Summary of Roundtable Meetings on Decommissioning of the Brookhaven Graphite Research Reactor

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1.0 Introduction

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) conducted three roundtable meetings on July 27, July 29, and August 3, 1999. The subject of the meetings was the decommissioning of the Brookhaven Graphite Research Reactor (BGRR).

This report summarizes the results of the community roundtable meetings.

- Section 2.0 provides an overview of the meetings including their purpose, format, general content, and attendance.

- The key issues, values, and information needs discussed at the meetings are summarized in Section 3.0.

- Based on the input received at the meetings, the project team drafted a set of community value statements that are intended to reflect the many individual comments, ideas, and recommendations recorded at the meetings. These draft value statements are included in Section 4.0. A complete list of individual comments and values recorded at the meetings is found in Appendix A.

- Section 5.0 describes how the results from the roundtable meetings will be used.

- Finally, Appendix B provides some figures and tables about the roundtable meetings including the range of people who attended and results from the evaluation forms completed by participants.

2.0 Overview of Community Roundtable Meetings

Purpose: Community roundtable meetings are one of the key activities outlined in the community relations plan for the decommissioning of the Brookhaven Graphite Research Reactor. The roundtable meetings allow for a mutually beneficial exchange of information between the project staff, the local community, and other stakeholders. Stakeholders are individuals and organizations that are involved with, interested in, or potentially affected by decisions regarding the decommissioning project.

The roundtable meetings held on July 27, July 29, and August 3, 1999 were the first in a series of community roundtable meetings that will be held over the course of the decommissioning project. The objectives for the first set of meetings were:

- to provide general information about the decommissioning project, and

- to obtain initial input on community values, expectations, and issues associated with the decommissioning project.

The project intends to address community values in the preliminary screening and analysis of decommissioning alternatives.

Format: The roundtable sessions included a combination of presentations, question and answer periods, and facilitated discussions. The sessions were designed as small group meetings to encourage participation and interaction among the attendees. Each meeting lasted approximately two-and-a-half to three hours.

Three separate sessions were conducted based on the level of interest expressed by the community in response to advertisements, notices, and other outreach about the roundtable meetings. The meetings were held during two separate weeks and in the evening and daytime hours to accommodate a variety of stakeholder schedules.

Approximately 25 interviews were conducted with various stakeholders prior to the roundtable sessions to obtain input and ideas on planning the sessions.

Content: The agenda for each meeting included a brief introduction by Michael Schlender, the Associate Laboratory Director for Environmental Restoration at BNL. After the welcome and opening remarks, the meeting facilitator, Stephanie Weisband, invited attendees to introduce themselves and outlined the meeting agenda. Ken White, of the BNL Community Relations Office, gave an overview of community involvement objectives with an emphasis on the process that will be followed on this project.

Next, Jim Goodenough, the DOE Project Manager, provided a brief presentation on the purpose of the decommissioning project and the steps that are typically involved in decommissioning a facility like the graphite reactor. He also presented the draft removal action objectives that were prepared by the project team. This presentation was followed by a question and answer period. Stephen Pulsford, the Bechtel Project Manager, concluded the presentation portion of the meeting with a brief overview of project plans including several photographs of the reactor facility that will be decommissioned over the next several years. Following a question and answer period, Stephanie Weisband facilitated an interactive session with participants to obtain input on community values, expectations, perspectives, and issues regarding the decommissioning project. The input provided by participants was recorded and organized on “wall boards” into the following 10 categories:

- Environmental Protection and Clean-up
- Health and Safety
- Waste Management and Disposal
- Cost and Schedule
- Transportation
- Future Land Use
- Cultural and Historic Resources
- Local Economy/Employment
- Trust and Credibility, and
- Communication

The input obtained during the roundtable meetings is summarized in Section 3.0. The actual comments recorded on the “wall boards” are provided, verbatim, in Appendix A.

Attendance: A total of approximately 56 stakeholders attended the sessions, not including representatives of DOE, BNL, and project staff. The attendees represented a broad spectrum of the community including civic associations, environmental groups, representatives of regulatory agencies and elected officials, lab employees and retirees, businesses, students and educators, members of the Community Advisory Council and Brookhaven Executive Roundtable, and the general public. Further information about participants is found in Appendix B.

Summary of Results: There appears to be a relatively high level of interest in the decommissioning project. The first series of roundtable meetings provided an effective forum for discussing project plans and identifying information needs and areas of interest among the participants. The meetings were also useful as a way of gaining insight on community perspectives, issues, and values that can be factored into the decision process. Based on the evaluation forms completed at the meetings, participants gave high marks to the first series of roundtable meetings and indicated strong interest in follow-on activities. A summary of evaluation results is included in Appendix B.

3.0 Summary of Community Values, Issues, and Perspectives

The project team recorded over 100 individual values and comments during the community roundtable meetings. A listing of these values is presented in Appendix A. In addition, several issues were addressed during the discussions and question and answer sessions in each meeting. This section provides a brief summary of the key issues, information needs, and values identified in the roundtable meetings. These summaries were prepared by the project team based on a review of comments and input received during the roundtable sessions. A set of value statements, which represent a grouping and consolidation of community input, is presented in Section 4.0.

3.1 Environmental Protection and Clean-up

Environmental Protection: The subject of environmental protection was a key area of discussion in all sessions. Many participants expressed concerns about the possible impacts of the decommissioning process itself, including the generation of dust and dirt as well as possible releases of contaminants as work is being done. The potential for airborne release of contaminants was the primary focus of these discussions. Most of the values expressed by participants in this category relate to precautions against the release of contaminants to the environment.

Environmental Clean-up: The topic of environmental clean-up was another area of interest to participants. Several of the attendees asked questions about the contaminants of concern and want to be kept informed as more data from monitoring and characterization activities become available. Other questions pertained to the clean-up goals

and clean-up levels for this project. Some suggested that the project do more than the minimum required. Others want some assurances that removal actions are effective and actually clean up any environmental contaminants that pose a risk to the public and the environment. Soil and groundwater were mentioned in these discussions as well as protection of the aquifer. Other values in this category related to the thoroughness and durability of the clean-up process that will be performed.

3.2 Health and Safety

Many of the general issues, concerns, and values about health and safety were addressed in the roundtable discussions about environmental protection and clean-up. However, some participants offered specific comments and suggestions related to overall project safety, worker safety, site access during decommissioning, and coordination of emergency action planning and response.

3.3 Waste Management and Disposal

The subject of waste management and disposal generated several questions and comments from participants. Many questions were asked about the waste disposal options for this project including the locations where waste could be disposed. Several people suggested that efforts be taken to minimize the amount of waste generated from the decommissioning project in order to minimize disposal cost, transportation impacts, and the potential for environmental release. Participants were interested in reducing the volume of all waste that could be associated with the decommissioning project including hazardous, chemical, and radioactive waste as well as industrial waste and debris. Some people suggested that the facility be decontaminated and left in place rather than being completely torn down and dismantled. Others suggested that the project look for opportunities to recycle and achieve economies of scale for waste management and disposal activities. Some values expressed by participants related to the safety and proper containment of temporary waste storage areas and assurances that waste would not be released to landfills if it didn't meet the appropriate standards.

3.4 Cost and Schedule

Cost: Participants from each session asked how much the project would cost. Several asked about the source of funding. Based on the discussions, participants understood that a wide range of costs could be expected depending on results from characterization and actual alternatives that would be proposed. Some participants indicated a need for more information on the levels of contamination and the various decommissioning alternatives before cost could be addressed. Several attendees recommended that the project find ways to be cost-efficient. It was also recommended that the project identify necessary funding up front to minimize the risk of not completing the work due to funding shortfalls. One participant suggested that the costs of decommissioning should be considered as part of a project's total life cycle cost when a project is first being planned.

Schedule: On the subject of schedule, one participant recommended that funding be increased to expedite the decommissioning project. In another session, someone commented that the longer we wait, the more it will cost. One participant asked why the BGRR was being decommissioned now. Another suggested that the project proceed at a reasonable pace, not being rushed or dragged out in time.

3.5 Transportation

Like the subject of waste management and disposal, transportation generated several questions during the roundtable meetings. Many of the participants were interested in basic information about the transportation options that will be considered on this project. Participants wanted to know how waste will be transported, including the method of transportation, the transportation routes, and the type of containers that will be used. They also asked questions about communication, safety, security, and emergency response issues related to waste transportation. Values and suggestions on the subject centered on ways to minimize risk and maximize safety and efficiency of transportation activities. A few of the attendees indicated preferences for one mode of transportation over another, but in general, participants seemed open to all alternatives including truck, rail, and barge. One of the suggestions was to use the route and transportation method that has the least impact on the public.

3.6 Future Land Use

Participants offered several suggestions and values on future land use issues related to the BGRR facility and site after the decommissioning project is completed. Several people expressed an interest in seeing the facility returned to use as a science museum following the clean-up process. There was also a suggestion to move the BNL Director's office to the BGRR site. One participant expressed an interest and expectation that BNL would still be an industrial complex for scientific research 50 years from now. Another commented that the BGRR facility is located on a hill with a great view that might appeal to homebuilders and homeowners. In another session, a participant recommended that building 701 be left standing to serve as a containment around the reactor pile. Other attendees at the meetings suggested that future land use should not be determined until characterization data on contamination levels at the site are available.

3.7 Cultural and Historic Resources

The category pertaining to cultural and historic resources generated a considerable number of comments and suggestions, some of which were similar to those on the subject of future land use. A determination of eligibility has been prepared for submittal to the New York State Historic Preservation Officer to recommend the BGRR for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (due to its contributions to science and the BNL mission). Some participants expressed the desire that the project maximize opportunities to preserve the historical significance and educational value of the reactor. One

participant suggested documenting the decommissioning project on film and video while another asked that efforts be made to save as much of the structure as possible. Some also suggested that the BGRR be returned to use as a science museum after decommissioning. A comment was made that cultural and historic preservation is a public value issue. One participant indicated a need to weigh cultural and historic preservation against public health and environmental protection.

3.7 Local Economy/Employment

The primary issues discussed on this topic related to the use of local workers on the decommissioning project. There were some questions from attendees about subcontracting opportunities and work with the local labor unions. Participants from each session were interested in seeing the project utilize qualified workers from the local area, including BNL employees, to the extent possible.

3.9 Trust and Credibility

This category received a lot of discussion and input from roundtable participants. Many of the suggestions and values pertained to communication and community involvement. One of the attendees commented that trust and credibility can only be developed over the long run. He added that these roundtable meetings are a step in the right direction by allowing the community a chance to provide input before decisions have already been made. He concluded by saying that time will tell if the project is sincere about using this input. Several people commented on the importance of maintaining this level of public involvement throughout the project. Other suggestions were to “personalize” the project by getting the project team and project engineers in contact with the community, talking in non-technical terms, and using educational programs on local television to discuss the project and other issues about BNL. One of the attendees said the community would like to assume that the project will use the best practices to ensure public health and safety. Some suggested that assurances about worker certifications and qualifications could improve trust and credibility, especially if verified by a third party. Another suggestion was to make sure that project roles are clearly defined including the accountability, responsibility, and authority of all the organizations involved on the project.

3.10 Communication

The topic of communication received more comments and suggestions than any other single category. Participants offered several recommendations to improve overall communication about the project. Many people suggested that information be shared with the community in a timely and ongoing manner. Participants would like communications to be more straightforward and easier to understand. In this regard, communications should use “plain English” and avoid the use of jargon and technical terms. In every session, participants suggested a variety of communication methods including use of the web site, email, direct mailings, and newsletters to provide information and updates about the project. The roundtable meetings were viewed as a good idea by most of the

participants. Several people suggested attending civic association meetings in the community to discuss the decommissioning project. Participants also recommended communication through newspaper articles and public access television.

4.0 Proposed Community Value Statements Based on Roundtable Results

The project team analyzed the comments generated by participants in each roundtable meeting and developed a set of 21 summary value statements for the decommissioning project. The intent of preparing these value statements is to consolidate the many individual comments and values recorded at the meetings into a set of overarching principles and values. These overarching statements can be more readily incorporated into the analysis of decommissioning alternatives.

It is important that these value statements capture the essence of the individual values that were collected at the roundtable meetings. It is also important that they adequately represent the community values in each category. The draft value statements are being provided to all of the roundtable participants for review and comment. To help ensure that they encompass the interests of the community, at large, the project team is also providing copies to the Community Advisory Council and the Brookhaven Executive Roundtable for review and comment.

In preparing these draft value statements, the project team consolidated a few of the categories that have closely related values and issues. “Environmental Protection and Clean-up” was combined with “Health and Safety” to form a new category of “Environment, Safety, and Health.” Also, “Transportation” was combined with “Waste Management and Disposal.” Finally, the categories of “Communication” and “Trust and Credibility” were combined into a single category called “Communication and Trust.” The values presented in each of the original categories were preserved and grouped into the new categories as a result of this consolidation.

Following are the draft community value statements that have been developed for the decommissioning project. These statements are not presented in any particular order but have been numbered to facilitate review and reference. As mentioned above, Appendix A includes the individual comments and values that were recorded on “wall boards” during the roundtable meetings, and on which these statements are based.

Environment, Safety, and Health

1. Prevent negative impacts to public health and the environment by minimizing contaminant releases to the air, soil, and groundwater and direct exposure to hazardous substances.

2. Protect workers and the public from physical, chemical, and radiological hazards posed by the decommissioning project.

3. Include environmental impact assessments in project documentation and monitor for hazards as work is being done.

4. Utilize qualified, experienced personnel, communicate within the project team, and coordinate with appropriate health and safety professionals and emergency response organizations to ensure overall project safety, including the safety of workers and the public.

5. Achieve the established environmental clean-up goals for this project and demonstrate that these clean-up goals are met. Exceed the established clean-up goals to the extent practicable.

6. Ensure that environmental clean-up actions are effective and durable over time.

Waste Management, Transportation, and Disposal

7. Minimize the amount of all types of waste generated from the decommissioning project in order to minimize waste management and disposal costs, transportation impacts, and the potential for environmental release.

8. Maximize opportunities for recycling and reuse of materials, equipment, and structures to the extent that these practices are economically viable and compliant with environmental standards and regulations.

9. Ensure that waste management, transportation, and disposal activities on this project are efficient, safe, secure, compliant with regulations, and protective of public health and the environment.

10. When waste from the decommissioning project is transported, use the route and transportation method that has the least impact on the public.

Cost and Schedule

11. Maximize opportunities to achieve cost efficiencies and cost savings to the extent that these practices do not adversely affect the protection of public and worker health and safety, and environmental quality.

12. Assure that adequate funding is available and obtained so that the decommissioning project can be completed in a safe, timely, and efficient manner.

Future Land Use

13. Determine future land use issues after determining the nature and extent of contamination present.

14. Consider opportunities for reuse of buildings and structures following clean-up to the extent that reuse is cost-efficient, safe, and reflective of DOE, laboratory, and community needs and interests.

Cultural and Historic Resources

15. Maximize opportunities to preserve the historical significance and educational value of the research reactor.

16. Ensure that historic preservation actions do not adversely impact public health, worker safety, or environmental protection.

17. Avoid demolition and removal of historically and culturally significant structures, components, and equipment to the extent that such actions are protective of public health and the environment, necessary and desirable from an historic preservation perspective, and the life cycle cost for such preservation is acceptable when compared to other mitigation measures.

Local Economy/Employment

18. Utilize qualified workers from the local area, including BNL employees, to the extent possible.

Communication and Trust

19. Share information with the community in a timely and ongoing manner. Use a variety of methods to communicate this information and ensure that communications are clear, easy to understand, and straightforward. Avoid the use of technical terms and jargon.

20. Provide regular, ongoing opportunities throughout the project for public involvement, information exchange, and input on project decisions.

21. Provide assurances to the community that this project is being conducted in a safe and responsible manner and that community values are being considered in the decision-making process.

5.0 How Roundtable Results Will Be Used

The initial series of roundtable meetings provided a considerable amount of input to the project team on community values, perspectives, concerns, and information needs.

This input will form the basis for ongoing dialog with the community about this project. Information and communication needs will be addressed as the project proceeds through a variety of community involvement activities such as meetings, publications, and mailings.

Input on community values will be used in the analysis and screening of decommissioning alternatives. The project team is in the process of preparing a Removal Action Alternatives Study that will define the range of alternatives to be considered over the course of this project. The Removal Action Alternatives Study will be used to screen alternatives against the various regulatory and technical requirements and removal action objectives to determine overall feasibility. After roundtable participants and other stakeholder groups review the community value statements, they will be finalized and provided as input to the Removal Action Alternatives Study. As part of the analysis and screening process, the study will indicate how the various alternatives reflect community values.

A second series of roundtable meetings will be held to discuss the preliminary results of the study and to obtain further input on the alternatives being addressed. Before finalizing the Removal Action Alternatives Study, the project team will provide a draft for public review and comment. Then, as each removal action is planned, the project team will prepare a more detailed evaluation of alternatives and document the results in an Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis Report that will also go out for public comment.

The project team will use the input obtained from stakeholders during roundtable meetings, public comment periods, and other forums, to assist in making decisions about decommissioning the Brookhaven Graphite Research Reactor. Stakeholder input will be an important component of these decisions in conjunction with other factors such as compliance with regulatory requirements. Ultimately, the decision for the final state of the facility will rest with the U.S. Department of Energy, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency through the signing of a Record of Decision.

Appendix A

Compilation of Community Values from Roundtable Meetings

Following is a listing of community values and comments that were recorded at the roundtable meetings. The dates indicate the specific roundtable sessions in which the values were recorded. It should be noted that participants' comments are presented verbatim (as they were recorded on the "wall boards" at the meetings) in most instances. In some cases, comments were edited slightly to improve clarity. Revised wording is indicated in brackets "[ ]". Questions that were recorded are being responded to by project team members; those responses will be available soon on the Graphite Reactor web page under frequently asked questions.

<u>Environmental Protection and Clean-up</u> [17 comments, 1 question]

(7/26/99—dry run with BNL employees)
- Implement dust suppression techniques.
- Study possible impacts to building intakes.
- Ensure that removal actions actually result in environmental clean-up.

(7/27/99)
- Dust/dirt containment [Use techniques to contain dust and dirt generated from the decommissioning work.]
- Worker (subcontractors, e.g.) training, credentials [Make sure that workers (including subcontractors) have the proper training and credentials.]
- Monitoring of hazards (as work is being done); to what [level/standard] will work/ clean-up be done?
- Transport (waste) lines: amount of characterization to date, planned/expected for project [Ensure soils along waste transfer lines between the Graphite Reactor building and other buildings are characterized.]

(7/29/99)
- Protect against release of contaminants to air.
- Recognize difference between "safe" and "standards."
- Go beyond "meeting the goals" for clean-up.
- Double-protection; surveillance; durability [Make sure that seals and barriers are durable and effective. Use double protection and surveillance.]
- Don't lose information to expediency. [Don't sacrifice the collection of adequate characterization data on type, extent, and location of contamination as a result of expediting the removal action/process.]
- Don't create more contamination (minimize) [When removing contaminated material and storing for disposal, do not create additional waste in the storage areas.]
- Select double protect materials carefully. [see statement three bullets up]
- Protect aquifer.

(8/3/99)
- Incorporate environmental impact assessment in project documentation.
- Attain level of clean-up 10 times greater than legally required (if affordable).
- Remove the contamination.

<u>Transportation</u> [9 comments, 9 questions (some duplicates)]

(7/27/99)

- How transported (truck, rail, other)? [How will waste be transported (truck, rail, other)?]
- What type of container(s)? [What type of container(s) will be used to transport waste?]
- When would waste be transported? (e.g., 12-5 a.m.)?
- Truck vs. rail (vs. other) [see first bullet above]
- What route? [What route(s) will be used to transport waste?]
- How communicated to the community? — Newsday, page 1 issue should be avoided. [How will information about waste transportation be communicated to the community? An article on page 1 of Newsday should be avoided.]
- How will it be transported? [see first bullet above]
- What is DOE/BNL proposal? [What does DOE/BNL expect to do for transportation of waste?]
- Security? (D.O.T.) [Department of Transportation] [Need to ensure security of waste shipments.]
- Safety? (D.O.T.) [Need to ensure that waste shipments are safe.]
- Don' sneak waste shipments out. [Provide general information to public on waste shipment, specifics are not necessary for general communications.]
- Coordinate with others who have low-level waste disposal/[transportation] needs. [Attempt to minimize the number of shipments by coordinating with other projects and/or other Long Island companies.]

(7/29/99)

- "Law" vs. "policy" for transport of low-level/high-level waste through New York City [What is the "law" and "policy" for transporting low-level and high-level waste through New York City?]
- Use highest quality professionals.
- Use rail as much as possible.
- Use the route [and transportation method] of least public impact.
- Consider barge transport.

(8/3/99)

- Work with local government jurisdictions (and emergency preparedness organizations) regarding transportation issues/preparedness.

<u>Health and Safety</u> [11 comments, 1 question]

(7/26/99—dry run with BNL employees)

- Open flamework [Minimize the use of open flamework as much as possible.]
- Ensure site access for needed equipment [to allow for emergency response vehicles, etc.]

(7/27/99)

- Risk to workers/public versus decommissioning cost. Link: If environmental protection and clean-up are done right, health and safety should be assured.
- Protect site from people (community, BNLers). [Restrict access as necessary to keep non-project people out of the work area.]
- Integrated emergency action planning. [Perform integrated emergency action planning.]
- Emissions/releases (Historical D&D) [Consider past emissions and releases when determining characterization needs for the facility.]
- Is an auxiliary power supply available? [Establish auxiliary power for equipment that may impact health and safety if a power failure occurs.]
- Air filter characterization? What is found; what does it mean?

(7/29/99)

- Make the project as safe as you can.
- Share plans with community (for input).
- Take worker concerns extra seriously. [Seek out and use ideas from workers to improve safety.]

(8/3/99)

- Address change management to assure worker, others' safety.

<u>Waste Management and Disposal</u> [9 comments, 2 questions]

(7/27/99)

- Disposal options [What are the disposal options?]
- Disposal locations [Where are the disposal locations?]
- Maximize economy of scale for waste management/disposal activities. Look at the feasibility of on-site processing, recycling.
- Leaving decontaminated facility (e.g., to trade-off re: dust contamination, etc.) [It may be better to decontaminate the facility and leave it in place rather than risk dust contamination or other impacts from taking the facility down.]
- Leave waste, if can be done safely; why move [waste] to another location, county? (no transportation issues, either; cost savings) [Leave as much industrial waste as possible that does not impact environment, health or safety in order to minimize transportation issues, reduce dust impact and provide a cost savings.]
- Move waste offsite – don't leave it here.

(7/29/99)

- Use weather protection for waste storage (pre-transport). [Provide appropriate weather protection of stored waste to prevent spread in storage areas and potential additional impacts.]
- Take precautions to assure excavation safety.
- Minimize waste generation. [Don't transport waste offsite if it is not necessary.]
- Be mindful of chemical hazards, too.

(8/3/99)
- Assure non-radiological/non-hazardous material. [Provide assurances that non-radioactive/non-hazardous waste has been properly characterized before disposing of as regular waste.]

<u>Cost and Schedule</u> [9 comments, 2 questions]

(7/26/99—dry run with BNL employees)
- Need more information on alternatives before cost can be addressed.
- The longer we wait, the more it will cost. [Move forward with project quickly to minimize long term costs of the project.]

(7/27/99)
- Schedule - Community needs as much information as possible, at earliest opportunity, to make informed input to process.
- Where do funds come from? How are they guaranteed?
- Can clean-up be initiated before studies are done? (bias toward "action")
- Identify/obtain funding/dollars in advance. [Assure sufficient funding is available to complete the job so it is not left in a half finished, less stable state.]

(7/29/99)
- Don't drag out the project, but don't rush it either.
- Don't view clean-up as just a "cost", but as money/jobs to Long Island [economy] (and protection of the environment).
- Maintain link/integration between various, ongoing components of project. [Follow project through to completion, do not consider completion of one segment as an acceptable stopping point.]

(8/3/99)
- Increase funding and expedite decommissioning process.
- Consider incorporating long-term (post decommissioning "life cycle") costs. [The cost of decommissioning should be taken into account (as part of the total life cycle cost) when planning research and reactor projects.]

<u>Future Land Use (of BGRR Site)</u> [10 comments]

(7/26/99—dry run with BNL employees)
- Return Science Museum to Building 701 following clean-up.
- The hill [where BGRR is located] has a great view, appeals to residential homebuilders [and homeowners].
- Move [the BNL] Director's Office to [the BGRR] complex.

(7/27/99)
- Return to use as a museum ([it] was one of the best around).

- In 50 years would like to see BNL still an industrial (scientific research) site/facility.

(7/29/99)
- Keep building 701 as a secondary containment [around the reactor pile]. [If the reactor pile is not removed, don't tear down building 701—let it serve as a secondary confinement around the reactor pile].
- Determine future land use based on what characterization tells us.
- No day-care centers, but cleaned up as if it would be one [Don't put a day care center on the BGRR site, but clean it up as if you were planning to put a day care center there.]
- Community wants input into [the funding of] science projects at [the] lab.

(8/3/99)
- Determine future use <u>after</u> determining the nature and extent of contamination.

<u>Cultural and Historic Resources</u> [9 comments]

(7/27/99)
- How can historical aspects be preserved (maximized)? [Fully explore options to preserve the historical aspects of the BGRR to the maximum extent possible.]
- Community perspective of "historical" can differ from decommissioning perspective.
- Save as much of the structure, (elements) components as possible; why recycle equipment [like the fans] when it can be saved? [The structural equipment and components of the facility have historical significance for BNL and the science community. Therefore, as much as possible should be preserved.]

(7/29/99)
- Document the project visually (film, video, other).
- The stack is a landmark.
- Recreate the museum (once decommissioning is complete).
- Weigh cultural/historic [preservation] against public health and environmental protection; cultural and historic preservation is a public value issue.
- Recognize "scientific" <u>and</u> "political" [issues](and distinguish between the two).

(8/3/99)
- Consider the BGRR's educational, historical significance when planning decommissioning.

<u>Local Economy/Employment</u> [8 comments]

(7/26/99—dry run with BNL employees)
- Consult and coordinate with [bargaining units] unions.
- Maximize use of in-house BNL capabilities.

(7/27/99)
- Use local workers.
- Use BNL employees.

(7/29/99)
- Look for opportunities to use local, BNL workers.
- Look for opportunities to retrain/transition workers from the High Flux Beam Reactor.
- Community wants to input into [the funding of] science projects at lab

(8/3/99)
- Prefer qualified local labor; if not available, go outside local area [for qualified labor] to keep project on budget and schedule.

<u>Trust and Credibility</u> [9 comments]

(7/26/99—dry run with BNL employees)
- Assume project will use best practices to ensure public health and safety. [It is assumed that the project will use best practices and comply with all existing BNL and regulatory requirements regarding safety and health.]

(7/27/99)
- Worker certification, qualifications; assurances/verification by 3rd party.
- Accountability/responsibility/authority - make clear who has what role.
- Trust and credibility can only be found over long run — Is roundtable meeting "window dressing" or real inclusion? [Bringing the community in before decisions are made is a step in the right direction, but time will tell whether a roundtable meeting like this one is just "window dressing" or a real opportunity to provide input into the decision process.]

(7/29/99)
- "Personalize" the project [and the] project team (especially engineers...). [The project team should be out in front on project communications so that the community can develop a sense of trust and confidence in the project activities.]
- Maintain this level of public involvement, presence throughout project, especially at "critical" junctures [decision points].
- Use Channel 12's half-hour programs to discuss BGRR (and other site issues).
- Consider this a "high" visibility project.

(8/3/99)
- Speak the same language [as the community] to communicate [effectively].

<u>Communication</u> [26 comments]

(7/26/99—dry run with BNL employees)
- Fire and Safety coordination [Make sure there is coordination with Fire and Safety.]

- Clarify why this project is being funded while other projects aren't (people [on some projects are] being laid off).

(7/27/99)
- Sharing of monitoring results (in timely manner). [Share monitoring results with community in a timely manner.]
- Wider notification; capture broader audience. [Expand the notification of the public to this process.]
- Project team goes into community (e.g., civic organizations): informs; forms relationships, too. [The project team should go into the community (e.g., attend meetings of civic organizations) to talk about this project. This is a good way to inform people; it helps form relationships, too.]
- Web site, other communication vehicles, avenues for timely updates (community relations, technical information, etc.); e-mail, mailings, newsletter, etc. - targeted, broadcast [Use the web site and other communication vehicles to provide timely updates, information about community relations activities, technical information, etc. Also, other methods such as email, mailings, newsletters, etc. can be used to broadcast information to a targeted audience.]
- Technical folks should assume "no knowledge" in your audience [in order to communicate the project effectively].
- Make community comments/inputs easy to do (e-mails, contact person).
- Need more information — tough [for the public] to know enough on an issue so complicated; [public] need[s] it soon, too.

(7/29/99)
- Visit community organizations (e.g., Rotary clubs, civic organizations) to discuss project.
- Share information with community in a timely and ongoing manner.
- Use Channel 12's half-hour programs to discuss BGRR (and other site issues).
- Maintain updated web site with current project information/status.
- Provide copies of wall-board comments (like this one).
- Regarding all issues lab-wide, provide all information to all stakeholders (and clean up mailing lists). [Don't do selective mailings/don't send information only to subsets of mailing list. Clean up mailing lists to consolidate and eliminate duplicates.]
- Stakeholders will help us (DOE) make the best decision.
- Use public access television.
- Educate Long Island about lab, Camp Upton.
- Publish series of articles in Newsday about lab, Camp Upton.

8/3/99)
- Speak English; eliminate jargon wall/barrier. [Eliminate technical jargon, it creates a communication wall/barrier between the public and the lab.]
- Work with medical community to facilitate communication and understanding. [Utilize techniques that the medical community does for communicating difficult/complex information.]

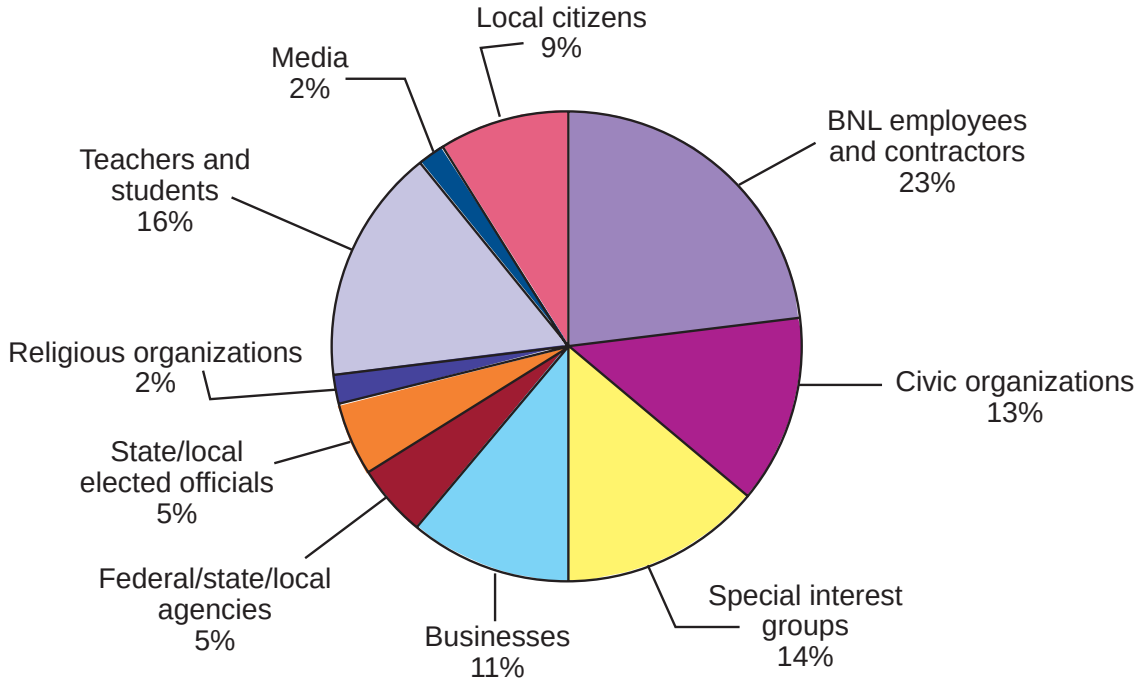
- Prepare a glossary and answers to frequently asked questions for community.
- Create information for the audience. Information must address substantive issues and indicate an individual for the community to contact.
- “cleanupdate” addresses issues; it’s a community service.
- Keep the public informed throughout the process (to facilitate understanding, trust).
- Provide method for public input/communication through the web site (e.g., email/ ”contact us” feature).

Appendix B

Tables and Figures on Roundtable Participation

TABLE 1 ATTENDANCE AT ROUNDTABLE MEETINGS		
Date and Time	**Location**	**Number of People Attending***
July 27, 1999 7 to 10 p.m.	Brookhaven National Lab, Building 51	17
July 29, 1999 9 a.m. to noon	Brookhaven National Lab, Building 51	20
August 3, 1999 7 to 10 p.m.	National Aviation & Transportation Center Shirley, NY	19
Total		56

Figure 1 - Roundtable Attendees by Category*



*Note: The number of attendees is based on sign-in sheets completed at the meetings (with some minor adjustments to account for individuals who did not sign in). Attendees include 11 Community Advisory Council (CAC) members or alternates and two members of the Brookhaven Executive Roundtable (BER). In addition to the numbers shown, 10 people (approximately 18% of the total participants) made reservations but did not attend. Figures do not include BGRR project staff or attendees from DOE or BNL who are affiliated with the BGRR project.

Figure 2
Roundtable Participants by Gender

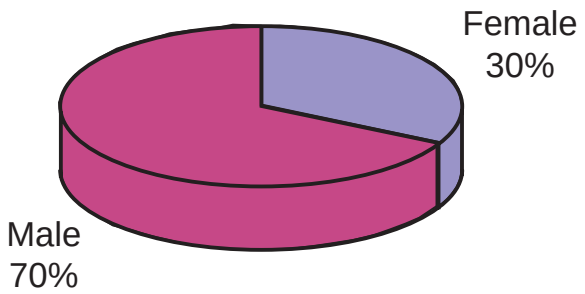


TABLE 2 NUMBER OF EVALUATIONS COLLECTED			
Date	**Location**	**Number of Attendees Who Completed Evaluations**	**Percent of Total Attendees**
July 27, 1999	Brookhaven National Lab Building 51	13	76.5%
July 29, 1999	Brookhaven National Lab Building 51	16	80.0%
August 3, 1999	National Aviation & Transportation Center: Shirley, NY	11	57.9%
Total		40	71.4%

TABLE 3 ROUNDTABLE EVALUATIONS	
Area of Evaluation	**Ranking (1-5, 5 high)**
Meeting facilities, locations, and times were appropriate	4.3
Format of meeting was effective	4.1
Presentations were clear and understandable	4.0
Questions were addressed	4.2
Time allotted was adequate	4.3
Overall rating	4.2

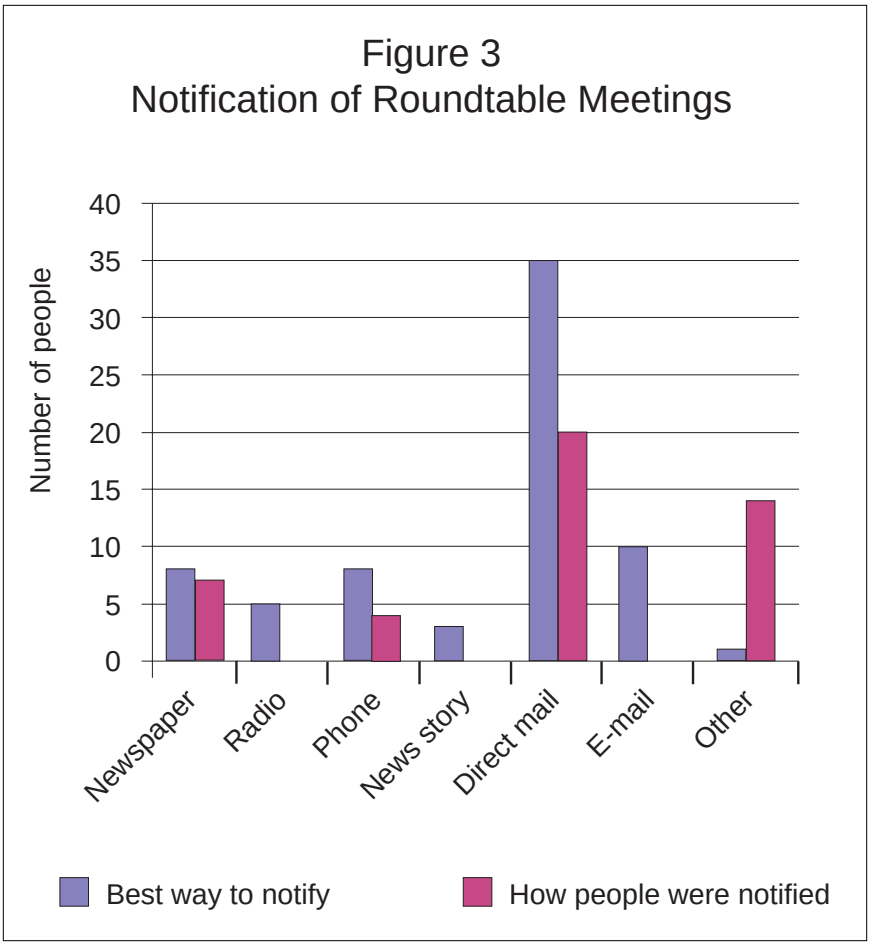


Figure 3
Notification of Roundtable Meetings
Number of people
40
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
Newspaper
Radio
Phone
News story
Direct mail
E-mail
Other
Best way to notify
How people were notified

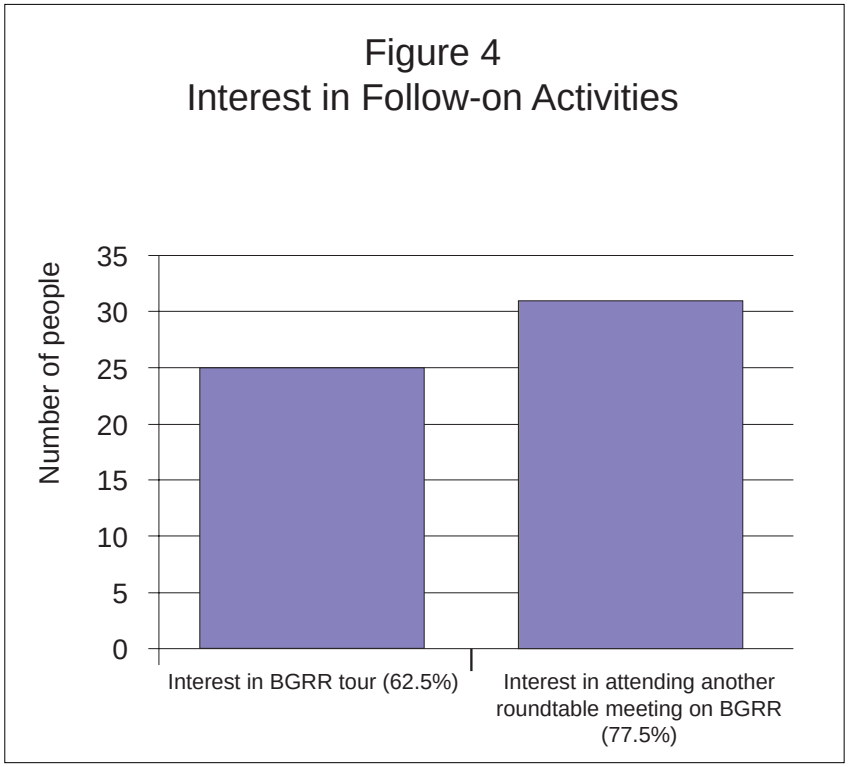
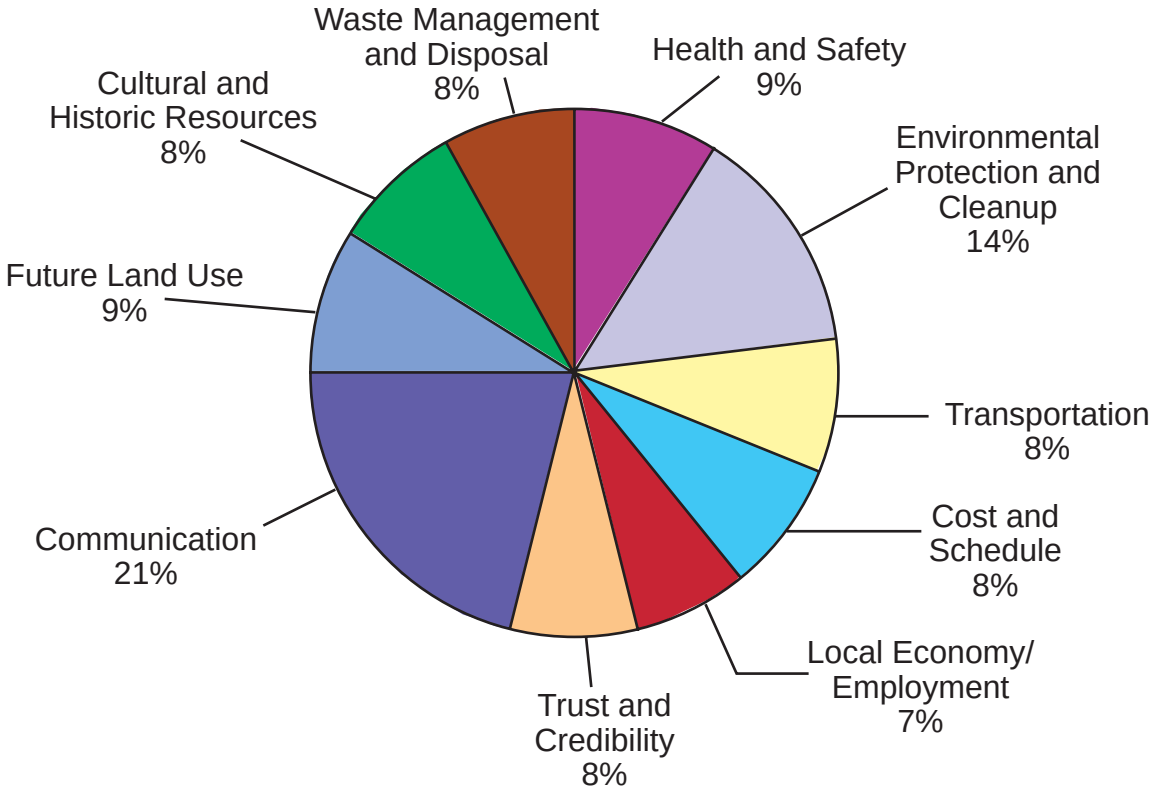


Figure 4
Interest in Follow-on Activities
Number of people
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
Interest in BGRR tour (62.5%)
Interest in attending another roundtable meeting on BGRR (77.5%)

Figure 5 - Community Values by Topic*



*Note: Percentages are based on the number of individual community values recorded in each category during the roundtable meetings. Figures do not include questions recorded in each category.