AB SVAFO
Lessons Learned From the Decommissioning of Contaminated Small Waste Storage Facilities

1. There has to be a detailed waste plan from the beginning, including all sorts of waste (liquid, wood, lead, asbestos, wire, glass, metals and so on). Use a database to maintain the plan. Place the waste immediately outside the building at designed locations and keep it in locked storage (maybe containers).

2. Review the history of the building to identify events that are important to be aware of. What was the building used for? Were there any incidents? Any rebuilding periods?

3. Be sure you have all drawings and blue prints you may need in the beginning. Keep them and other documents in a document management system.
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4. Check all individual radiation exposures before the project starts and do whole body measurements both before and after the project.

5. Take unwanted and “not what you expected” situations into account in the time schedule.

6. Be aware of contaminations and radiation sources outside the actual area. They might have to be removed, not to disturb further measurements.

7. Be aware that some precautions must be taken and other procedures prepared to prevent unplanned damage due to the demolition work, i.e. leaking due to cracks in walls or roofing, inward water seepage due to frozen tubes and so on.

8. There are always construction design changes due to bad planning. With better planning you do not have to reconstruct.
9. A project under way for an extensive period of time usually experiences condition changes which will make things more expensive and the project even longer. Also, conditions like authority regulations may change over time. Project managers may come and go, and a document management system will be important to keep track of all documentation.

10. Devote considerable effort in the beginning of the project when characterisation is done so all radioactive and nonradioactive elements in different places are analysed. Do not forget to analyse contamination in the soil under and around the building.

11. Hold frequent briefings with the personnel for better understanding of the ALARA concept (as low as reasonably achievable) and safety mindedness.
12. Establish an updated plan for the last few weeks of work to motivate the team. Place this plan in a location very visible to the staff and update it daily.