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Off-site disposal solution for Hunters Hill waste

The NSW Government has announced a major breakthrough in its remediation plans for the Old Radium Hill Refinery site at 7 – 11 Nelson Parade, Hunters Hill, after securing an agreement with an off-site disposal facility to take the waste.

The Government has reached an agreement with waste handler, US Ecology, for the transport and disposal of the naturally-occurring radioactive material from the site to a fully-permitted disposal facility in the United States.

US Ecology is a global environmental services company with extensive experience in Australia and other countries.

Under the agreement, all the naturally-occurring radioactive material from Nelson Parade will be excavated and securely transported to the USA for permanent disposal. No waste material will be stored on site.

The Government made a commitment to Nelson Parade residents it would deliver a safe and secure remediation solution to the legacy contamination issues on this site, created by private sector activity more than 100 years ago.

While initially proposing a safe and proven approach to remediate and encapsulate some of the waste material on-site, the Government continued to explore other options.

It has now found a solution that will deliver an even better outcome for residents by permanently removing the material from the site.

Once fully remediated, the three waterfront government-owned sites could be sold for residential use.

The cost of this latest solution is comparable to the cost of the onsite encapsulation proposal, without the ongoing requirement for the Government to maintain the encapsulation cell.

A revised submission to secure planning approval for the off-site disposal option will be submitted shortly. Pending approval, works could commence on site in 2020.

The Government is committed to keeping the Hunters Hill community informed as the off-site disposal remediation plan progresses.