

May 31, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR: Kenneth A. Raglin, Associate Director  
for Training and Development  
Office of Human Resources

FROM: John T. Greeves, Director */RA BY J. HOLONICH FOR/*  
Division of Waste Management  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

SUBJECT: TRAINING COURSE ON GENERAL HEALTH PHYSICS FOR  
A HIGH-LEVEL WASTE GEOLOGIC REPOSITORY

Currently, the Division of Waste Management (DWM) is actively involved in pre-licensing work related to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) high-level radioactive waste repository program at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. However, by 2002, the DOE expects to submit a license application for a potential repository. As part of its preparation for reviewing such an application, DWM is revising Manual Chapter (MC) 1246, "**Formal Qualification Program in the Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards Program Area,**" (Appendices A and B) to lay out the qualification requirements for technical reviewers and inspectors in the high-level waste program. Because the qualification process is scheduled to be completed by individual staff in two years, DWM is beginning to look at what is needed in terms of training to support a license application review by 2002.

The purpose of this memorandum is to request assistance from the Technical Training Center (TTC) in setting up a health physics course specifically focused on the operation of a high-level waste repository. In the MC 1246 qualification requirements, each technical reviewer and inspector must take a fundamental health physics course. Although a generic, basic course (H-117) is currently offered, using this course to qualify staff in the high-level waste program would not be practical. The reason is that DWM is just beginning the qualification process for the staff assigned to the high-level waste program. Because this program has not done any licensing work in the past, nearly all of the individuals assigned need to take the health physics course required by MC 1246. The number of DWM staff assigned to the high-level waste program is approximately 50. To try and train these many people in the next two years using the routinely offered health physics course would be impossible. Thus, the DWM is requesting a separate health physics course on repository operations.

It is important to note that the TTC has provided this kind of unique course to DWM in the past. In February 1997, the TTC developed the course "General Health Physics for Uranium

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Recovery.” This was a one-time course offered to the Uranium Recovery Branch in DWM. The DWM expectation is that the high-level waste course would be similar in content and structure. The modules used for the uranium recovery course included: 1) Radiological and Chemical Properties of Uranium; 2) Contamination Control; Internal and External Dose Control; 3) Sampling and Measurement; 4) Health Physics Practices; and 5) an open forum. A similar course could be constructed for the high-level waste repository.

Given the large number of people that DWM would like to train in the course, approximately 50, DWM would expect that two sessions of the course need to be offered. In addition, if other organizations, such as the Office of the General Counsel or Region IV want to include participants in the course, DWM would have no objections as long as all the slots DWM needed were available. Once the initial volume of staff are trained, future staff can receive the necessary training through the routinely offered health physics.

I have assigned Kien Chang of my staff to work with TTC in the development. He may be reached at 415-6612 for matters related to this subject.

K. Raglin

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