

August 22, 2000

Mr. Donald J. Campbell, Director
NASA Glenn Research Center at Lewis Field
21000 Brookpark Road M.S. 3-2
Cleveland, Ohio 44135-3191

SUBJECT: PRE-DECOMMISSIONING ACTIVITIES AT PLUM BROOK REACTOR FACILITY

Dear Mr. Campbell:

This letter is in response to your letter of August 9, 2000. Your letter informed the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) of your intentions to perform pre-decommissioning activities at the Plum Brook Reactor Facility (PBRF). Your plans "allow safe removal and disposal of the loose material."

As indicated in our meetings and telephone conversations with your staff, you can do various activities with the following stipulations. The activities are only disposal of loose waste. The activities do not require major dismantling or modification of structures system and components. The activities will not permanently modify or dismantle structures, systems or components (such activities are not allowed until the decommissioning plan is approved). Again this does not prohibit disposal of loose radioactive waste as you have proposed. The proposed activities must also meet the requirements of 10 CFR 50.59, "Changes, tests and experiments." The activities should not (1) foreclose release of the site for possible unrestricted use, (2) result in significant environmental impact beyond that previously analyzed and assumed for PBRF or (3) result in there no longer being reasonable assurance that adequate funds will be available for decommissioning. Further, you must conduct the activities safely in accordance with all applicable requirements.

Your letter also informed us of your plans to start additional site characterizations to better define the radioactive contamination at the site. We appreciate your staff continuing to keep the NRC informed of activities at PBRF. As discussed with your staff, the NRC is continuing to evaluate your proposed decommissioning plan for PBRF.

Should you have any questions concerning these matters or other PBRF matters, please do not hesitate to call me at 301-415-1128.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Marvin M. Mendonca, Senior Project Manger
Events Assessment, Generic Communications
and Non-Power Reactors Branch
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-30 & 50-185

cc: See next page

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National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Docket Nos. 50-30/185

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