

November 27, 2000

MEMORANDUM TO: Scott Moore, Chief
Special Projects Section
Decommissioning Branch
Division of Waste Management, NMSS

FROM: Sandra Wastler, Chief **/RA/** M. Thaggard for
Performance Assessment Section
Environmental & Performance Assessment Branch
Division of Waste Management, NMSS

SUBJECT: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REQUEST REGARDING
THE WHITTAKER CORPORATION RISK ASSESSMENT

In response to a Technical Assistance Request (TAR), dated October 4, 2000, from the Decommissioning Branch, the Environmental and Performance Assessment Branch staff has completed its technical review of the Whittaker Corporation risk assessment, dated September 2000. Specifically, the TAR requested a review of the risk assessment document with special emphasis on Section 5 (Dose Modeling).

Based upon the staff's review of the risk assessment document, we believe that an appropriate source term was used in the risk assessment; however, an in-depth review of the characterization was not conducted as part of the review of the risk assessment. In addition, additional information should be provided to support the establishment of the polygons used in determining the surface areas and volume of the contamination. The staff also believes that an appropriate critical group, scenario, and set of pathways were used in the assessment. Further, staff believes that an appropriate conceptual model, set of calculations, and input parameters, were used in the assessment; however, to support additional analyses on areas of the site not determined to be acceptable for release (e.g., for Section 2N) additional information (i.e., the depth to the water table) is needed to support the assumed unsaturated zone thickness. Further, for such analyses, results should be calibrated against real site data (e.g., ground-water concentrations) to the extent possible.

Staff's independent assessment confirms the conclusions reached in the Whittaker assessment that Sections 1, 3, 4, and X1 are acceptable for unrestricted release. However, additional information should be provided to justify treating Section X1 as a distinct area. Further, the criteria that will be used for decommissioning Section 2N needs to be established.

Attached for your information and use is a technical evaluation report documenting the staff's assessment. Please feel free to contact me or Mark Thaggard of my staff for any further assistance or if you have any questions.

Attachment: Technical Evaluation Report

CONTACT: Mark Thaggard, NMSS/DWM/EPAB
(301) 415-6718

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