

July 11, 2001

Mr. Patrick Rhoads
Office of Fissile Materials Disposition
National Nuclear Security Administration
U.S. Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Rhoads

On February 28, 2001, Duke, Cogema, Stone and Webster (DCS) submitted to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) its construction authorization request for the mixed oxide fuel fabrication facility (MOX FFF). DCS expects to submit an application for operations next summer. To support our review of these and related safety documents, additional training of our staff in plutonium processing environments, especially with weapons-grade plutonium would be beneficial. We believe the best and perhaps only place to acquire this type of training is at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) contractor.

We are prepared to procure the training services directly from LANL; however, procuring these services through NRC's administrative processes may not be timely. Since we both understand the schedule requirements associated with the MOX FFF, we request that DOE arrange with LANL to convene and conduct the training directly. We believe that authorizing LANL directly will save as much as six months. We recognize that direct funding represents no additional financial burden to DOE since the training costs would otherwise be costed indirectly to DOE through your contract with DCS. In fact, some administrative costs may be obviated. DOE would be free to send any of its staff or its contractors to the training along with the NRC staff.

P. Rhoads

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If you have any questions on this request, please feel free to call Vanice Perin at 301-415-8143.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Eric Leeds, Chief
Special Projects Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
and Safeguards
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

cc:

R. Ihde, DCS

P. Hastings, DCS

J. Johnson, DOE

H. Potter, SC Dept. of HEC

J. Conway, DNFSB

D. Moniak, BREDL

E. Foster

G. Carroll, GANE

R. Thomas, Environmentalists, Inc.

F. Motley, LANL

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NAME	VPerin:cc*	TJohnson*	ELeeds	
DATE	7/11/01	7/11/01	7/11/01	

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