

August 8, 2001

John McKenzie
Director of Regulatory Affairs
Attn: O8 U Naval Reactors
1240 Issac Hull Ave. SE Stop 8036
Washington Navy Yard DC 20376-8036

SUBJECT: AGREEMENT ON THE SCHEDULE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF THE SAFETY
EVALUATION REPORT FOR THE NAVAL NUCLEAR PROPULSION
PROGRAM ADDENDUM TO THE DISPOSAL CRITICALITY ANALYSIS
METHODOLOGY TOPICAL REPORT

Dear Mr. McKenzie:

On June 4 through 5, 2001, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff briefed the Department of the Navy (DON) and the Department of Energy (DOE) and their contractors on the contents of the classified draft Safety Evaluation Report (SER) for the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program Addendum to the Disposal Criticality Analysis Methodology Topical Report, Addendum to YMP/TR-004Q, Revision 0. The draft SER was issued on May 11, 2001. At this briefing, the DON and the DOE proposed that it would be mutually beneficial to defer the issuance of the final SER while the DON and the DOE address some or all of the open items and acceptance conditions. This proposal is acceptable to the NRC. The summary of the June 4 through 5, 2001, meeting is attached.

The DON has proposed to hold a series of focused meetings on individual technical areas (neutronics, materials, and FEPs) covering a total of 40 agenda topics compiled from the issues identified in the draft SER. The DON anticipates that it will take between 10 to 15 meetings, of which 3 have already been held, to cover the 40 agenda topics. The DON agreed to provide an agenda for each meeting and the technical information to be discussed at each meeting at least a few days in advance of the meetings. While the DON and the NRC expect that the focused meetings will be completed by the end of September 2001, the schedule will depend on the timeliness and the applicability of the documented technical basis and the clarifying commitments provided by the DON to address the open items and acceptance conditions. A summary meeting will likely be held shortly after the focused meetings to clarify the overall status of the issues identified in the SER. This schedule should allow the completion and issuance of Rev. 0 of the SER by the end of calendar year 2001.

J. McKenzie

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The interactions between the DON, the DOE, and the NRC identified in this letter, including the June 4 through 5, 2001, meeting minutes, will not be open to the public due to the classified material contained in the draft SER.

Sincerely,

/RA/ nks for cwr

C. William Reamer, Chief
High-Level Waste and Performance
Assessment Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosure: Minutes of the June 4 through 5, 2001 Meeting (classified)

cc: See attached distribution list w/o enclosure

Letter to J. McKenzie from C.W. Reamer dated: August 8, 2001

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Sincerely,

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High-Level Waste and Performance
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