

September 26, 2001

MEMORANDUM TO: Larry W. Camper, Chief
Decommissioning Branch
Division of Waste Management

THRU: Robert A. Nelson, Chief **/RA/**
Facilities Decommissioning Section
Decommissioning Branch
Division of Waste Management

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Facilities Decommissioning Section
Decommissioning Branch
Division of Waste Management

SUBJECT: FINAL REPORT ON RESULTS OF TERMINATED LICENSE REVIEWS

Purpose:

This report satisfies the staff's commitment, under Performance Goal No. 1, Second Strategy, Activity A.1 of the FY2001 Operational Level Operating Plan, to provide a final report on the results of the terminated license reviews.

Background:

In 1989 the General Accounting Office (GAO) issued a report which raised concerns about NRC's criteria and procedures used for the decommissioning of formerly licensed sites. As a result, in 1990, the NRC decided to undertake a review of terminated materials licenses to assure that previously licensed facilities were properly decontaminated and posed no threat to public health and safety. Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) was contracted to review all materials licenses terminated by the NRC or its predecessor agencies, from inception of material regulation, to: (1) identify sites with potential for meaningful residual contamination, based on information in the license documentation; and (2) to identify sealed sources with incomplete or no accounting that could represent a public hazard.

Discussion:

ORNL examined in excess of 37,000 license files terminated through 1994. From its evaluation of these license files, ORNL identified approximately 675 loose material licenses and 565 sealed source licenses that required further review. The Regions either performed a follow-up review, or transferred responsibility for the follow-up review to the appropriate Agreement State. Regional staff have completed reviewing ORNL identified sites in accordance with Temporary

Instruction 2800/026, "Follow-up Inspection of Formerly Licensed Sites Identified as Potentially Contaminated," dated April 15, 1998.

As a result of the Regional reviews, 40 sites were found to have residual contamination in excess of the NRC's criteria for unrestricted release. Of these sites, 18 have been closed, 11 have been transferred to Agreement States or the U.S. Department of Air Force, 8 are in the process of decommissioning, and 3 are under NRC review. A listing of the contaminated sites, and current status, is included as Enclosure 1. A listing of the loose material licenses reviewed by the Regions, or transferred to the Agreement States, is presented as Enclosure 2. A listing of the sealed source licenses reviewed by the Regions, or transferred to the Agreement States, is presented as Enclosure 3. In some cases, there may be more than one site location for a given license. However, to maintain consistency with the original lists produced by ORNL, only one site location is listed for each license in the enclosures.

ORNL has developed a web-based database for the NRC to document the evaluation and closure process for all 37,000 terminated license files. This database will also be used to track the 300 - 400 licenses terminated each year by NRC. The database will be completed in September 2002. It is envisioned that the ORNL contract will be extended beyond 2002 to maintain and update the database.

Conclusions:

ORNL and the Regions have completed the complex task of reviewing and evaluating the license files for all licenses terminated by the NRC, or predecessor agency, since inception of nuclear material licensing. Although the staff did identify 40 sites which required remediation, this number represents approximately 0.1% of the licenses reviewed.

Enclosures:

1. Contaminated Formerly Licensed Sites
2. Loose Material Licenses Reviewed by the Regions
or Transferred to an Agreement State
3. Sealed Source Licenses Reviewed by the Regions
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