

MEMORANDUM TO: Eric J. Leeds, Chief
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Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
and Safeguards
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

THRU: Joseph G. Giitter, Chief
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SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF DECEMBER 10-14, 2001 MEETING -
RUSSIAN PLUTONIUM DISPOSITION PROGRAM

DATES OF TRAVEL AND COUNTRIES/ORGANIZATIONS VISITED: The meeting with the Russian Federation Gosatomnadzor (GAN) was held on December 10-14, 2001, at GAN offices in Moscow, Russia.

AUTHOR/TITLE: Andrew Persinko, Sr. Nuclear Engineer, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS).

BACKGROUND/PURPOSE: The meeting was part of the continuing cooperation between the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) in providing regulatory/licensing support to the Russian Federation Gosatomnadzor (GAN) associated with plutonium disposition. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss regulatory/licensing issues relevant to the Russian Federation Plutonium Disposition Program for which DOE is providing assistance to GAN, and to coordinate DOE and NRC regulatory assistance being provided to GAN. DOE funded NRC attendance at the meeting.

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY OF PERTINENT POINTS/ISSUES: At the meeting, Mr. Sam Thomas (DOE) discussed: 1) the accomplishments of DOE's Licensing/Regulatory Infrastructure project;

2) the project management training initiative to be conducted to enhance GAN's ability to support project activities; 3) status of task orders; and 4) the development of Federal regulations being developed by GAN. At DOE's request, NRC will provide a regulatory/licensing review of these regulations as they are developed. NRC personnel made three presentations relevant to GAN activities: 1) Regulatory Development; 2) Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility Licensing Process; and 3) Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility Status Update.

DISCUSSION: The meeting was the most recent in a series of meetings with GAN to discuss work associated with DOE's Licensing/Regulatory Infrastructure project. The discussions included a status of outstanding task orders DOE has with GAN for work being performed by GAN, existing and new activities that include development of licensing road maps, development of Russian Federal regulations, and project management training for GAN personnel. The Task Orders discussed included:

- Task Order 2: Development of licensing road maps.
- Task Order 4: Development of the regulatory document, "Location (Siting) of Non-Reactor Nuclear Facilities and Storage Facilities of Nuclear Materials - Basic Safety Criteria and Requirements."
- Task Order 5: Development of the regulatory document, "Nuclear Fuel Cycle Safety Rules."
- Task Order 6: Development of the regulatory document, "Weapons-Grade Plutonium Conversion Facilities - Safety Requirements."
- Task Order 7: Development of the regulatory document, "Development of Uranium-Plutonium Oxide (MOX) Fuel Fabrication Facilities - Safety Requirements."
- Task Order 14: Project management activities.
- Task Order 15: Development of a functional description for an enhanced GAN web site.

Mr. Lavrinovich (GAN) and Mr. Sapozhnikov (GAN) discussed their experiences from the training received in the U.S. during the July-August 2001 time period on NRC inspection procedures and evaluation methods. The visit was arranged by NRC and funded by DOE. GAN indicated that information gained during that visit was forwarded to GAN regional offices. Messrs. Lavrinovich and Sapozhnikov indicated that the trip was beneficial in assisting GAN in the development of inspection procedures.

NRC made three presentations relevant to GAN activities. In the first presentation, an overview of NRC regulations and the steps in developing a regulation were discussed. The recent revision to 10 CFR 70 was used as an example in the discussion since this regulation applies to plutonium facilities. The second presentation focused on the licensing process for the mixed oxide fuel fabrication facility. Major licensing steps and separate construction and operation approvals were presented. Some of the regulatory difficulties encountered were also discussed. The third presentation provided a status update of the licensing review being performed by the NRC staff for the mixed oxide fuel fabrication facility. At the conclusion of the NRC presentations, Dr. Kislov (GAN) noted that GAN found the presentations to be informative and complimented the organization of the presentations.

PENDING ACTIONS/PLANNED NEXT STEPS FOR NRC: At DOE's request, NRC will review the regulations being developed by GAN, providing a regulatory/licensing perspective on the regulations. It is expected that six regulations will be developed in 2002 with the first being completed in January 2002. DOE will fund NRC review through an existing reimbursable agreement.

ATTACHMENTS: The agenda, Record of Meeting and NRC presentation slides are provided as Attachments 1, 2, and 3 respectively.

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Docket: 70-3098

Attachments: 1. The Agenda
2. Record of Meeting
3. NRC Presentation Slides

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