

MEMORANDUM TO: John T. Larkins, Executive Director
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards
Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste

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

SUBJECT: POSTPONEMENT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR
SAFEGUARDS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING ON THE MIXED OXIDE
FUEL FABRICATION FACILITY SAFETY REVIEW

On February 12, 2002, the staff is scheduled to provide an update on the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility (MOX FFF) safety review to the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) Subcommittee on Fuels. We had previously presented the status of the MOX FFF review to the subcommittee this past November. We highly recommend postponing the scheduled February 12, 2002 subcommittee update until the week of April 10th, or later. The reasons for recommending the delay includes the proposal of significant changes to the facility by the applicant, Duke Cogema Stone & Webster (DCS). The staff is scheduled to meet with DCS on February 13th to discuss the changes and the revised schedule milestones. The changes are such that the applicant anticipates a significant schedular delay in the license application. In addition, the staff is still working to resolve many issues that were presented to the subcommittee in November. By delaying the briefing, the staff will be able to present to the subcommittee a more complete status of the project and the remaining issues.

The staff is looking forward to briefing the subcommittee. We still plan on issuing the draft Safety Evaluation Report (SER) at the end of April and welcome the subcommittee's insights. Issuance of the draft SER for the MOX FFF construction authorization request is the first of several important milestones for this project. The staff needs to complete an environmental impact statement and a final SER approving construction before a license application for possession and operation of the facility would be accepted. The staff would then need to complete an SER for the operating license. We anticipate work on this project to proceed through 2005. Once DCS has provided the staff with its new project schedule, we would like to meet with ACRS staff to plan a schedule for ACRS review through issuance of the operating license.

CONTACT: D. Amy Hoadley, NMSS/FCSS
415-8129

J. Larkins

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If you or your staff have any questions regarding this memorandum, please contact me, Joseph Giitter, the Section Chief of the Enrichment Section, or Andrew Persinko, the MOX Project Manager.

Docket: 70-3098

cc: J. Johnson, DOE
H. Porter, SCDHEC
J. Conway, DNFSB
D. Moniak, BREDL
G. Carroll, GANE
R. Thomas, Environmentalists, Inc.

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