

November 14, 1994

MEMORANDUM TO: John Austin, Chief
Low-Level Waste and Decommissioning Projects Branch, DWM

FROM: Margaret Federline, Chief
Performance Assessment and Hydrology Branch, DWM

SUBJECT: CONCLUSIONS FROM NUCLEAR METALS INCORPORATED ANALYSIS

M. Rose Byrne and Richard Codell of this Branch conducted an analysis of the Nuclear Metals site in response to the questions: (1) Should the contaminated sludge in the holding basin be removed in the near future or allowed to stay on-site for 7-8 years; and (2) Will existing levels of contaminants in the groundwater require remediation before the site is released to unrestricted use?

Correlations of rainfall rate and uranium concentrations at this time do not allow any conclusions about the effectiveness of the holding basin cover. They conclude that under natural gradient conditions, uranium presently in the ground near the holding pond could migrate beyond the site boundary in a time-frame of decades to centuries. Although there are no measured concentrations above the current EPA limits off-site, concentrations of uranium have been measured above limits not far from the site boundary. They request additional data and analyses in order to study options for decommissioning of the site prior to its release for unrestricted use. Please address your questions and comments to M. Rose Byrne (415-6609) or Richard Codell (415-8167).

Attachment: As stated

cc: Timothy C. Johnson

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