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To: ForeignTravel  
Date: 6/3/03 8:01AM  
Subject: Quick Look Report: Moscow May 19-30

Quick-Look Report

On May 19-23, 2003, NMSS/FCSS staff (Andrew Persinko) supported a meeting in Moscow attended by the Department of Energy (DOE), the European Union, and the Russian Federation Gosatomnadzor (GAN). The purpose of the meeting was to review GAN's proposed resolution of comments on federal draft regulatory documents being developed to support the Russian Federation plutonium disposition program. GAN representatives presented the technical and licensing bases for the proposed resolution of technical comments previously received from other participants. The discussion resulted in agreement on changes in Federal GAN regulatory documents. A consensus on future actions, including ways to improve the Russian Federation regulatory document development process, was also accomplished. Funding for the development of the Russian federal regulations is provided by DOE.

On May 26-30, 2003, NMSS/FCSS staff (Muffet Chatterton and Christopher Tripp) conducted a seminar for GAN in Moscow on nuclear criticality safety as it relates to the U.S. Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility (MFFF). Criticality-related regulations and guidance documents, results of technical discussions with the MFFF applicant, and the staff's criticality safety conclusions contained in the staff's draft Safety Evaluation Reports were discussed in detail with GAN. The staff fielded technical and regulatory process questions throughout the week. The meeting was well attended by GAN personnel and other Russian specialists from Russian laboratories, including Russian experts in nuclear criticality safety. Upon conclusion of the seminar, GAN personnel complimented the staff on the quality and organization of the seminar. This seminar was the first in a series that the staff intends to conduct for GAN on MFFF-related subjects. DOE requested that NRC conduct these seminars in order to convey information about the staff's review of the domestic MFFF to GAN since GAN has adopted the design of the domestic MFFF for the Russian MFFF.

All costs associated with the review of the Russian regulations and the criticality safety seminar were paid for by DOE through a fully reimbursable agreement with NRC.

CC: Chatterton, Margaret; Gibson, Kathy; Glitter, Joe; Leeds, Eric; Martin, Robert; Pierson, Robert; Sherr, Theodore; Tripp, Christopher

B/3