



40-8027

STEVEN A. THOMPSON
Executive Director

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

BRAD HENRY
Governor

March 7, 2005

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Mr. Myron Fliegel, Senior Project Manager
Fuel Cycle Facilities Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards, NMSS
Two White Flint North
11545 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852-2738

RE: Response to Request for Additional Information
Reclamation Plan - Radiation and Erosion Protection
Sequoyah Fuels Corporation (SFC)
Gore, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Ellis:

The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (Department) has completed its review of the above captioned document that was received on January 25, 2005.

Our review indicated a few discrepancies needing to be amended or clarified before the Reclamation Plan can be considered complete. In order for the proposed plan to assure that human health and the environment will be adequately protected from any emissions from 11e.(2) wastes in the proposed disposal cell and that erosion control designs are adequate to provide long-term prevention of erosion of the cell, please address the following discrepancies:

Surface Water Hydrology and Erosion Protection:

Elevation contours on Drawing 5 indicate potential run-off water ponding against the western and eastern edges of the proposed disposal cell. Please address these concerns in your updated erosional stability document. Additional removal and grading of soil adjacent to the western edge of the proposed disposal cell may be necessary to prevent ponding against the toe of the cell during heavy precipitation events.

In response to NRC's comment SW13 (Vegetative Cover,) SFC states that the plan for vegetation on the cover of the proposed disposal cell is outlined in the 2004 Technical Specifications. Although tree species have been eliminated from the list of seed mix in the 2004 Technical Specifications, the Technical Specifications should be amended to indicate that SFC will prevent the growth of trees on the cover as long SFC retains its NRC license, in accordance with the Provisions V.B.3 and V.B.4 of the Settlement Agreement.



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SFC's response to NRC's comment SW14 (Stream 005) regarding eastward erosion of the tributary toward the western edge of the cell defers to a former response to NRC comment G2. However, SFC's response should include its intent to install rock armor in the 005 Drainage adequate to assure that erosion will not undermine the cell, in accordance with Provision V.B.7 of the Settlement Agreement.

Soil Sampling Quality Assurance Plan:

Section 3.4.9 describes the use of portable air photoionization instruments such as organic vapor analyzers or HNUs. Accuracy of these types of instruments can be affected greatly by high winds prevalent in Oklahoma. The Department prefers that these instruments be used to monitor soil gases from a sealed plastic zip bag only.

A site safety plan should be prepared and approved before conducting further hydrogeological field investigations. If necessary, the Department can provide information necessary to meet the requirements of a complete site safety plan.

The information requested above is necessary for a complete Reclamation Plan. The Department looks forward to receiving clarification to the listed discrepancies at your earliest convenience.

In the mean time, if you have questions regarding our review of this or other documents, please contact Mr. Robert Replogle at 405.702.5131 or robert.replogle@deq.state.ok.us.

Sincerely,



Saba Tahmassebi, Ph.D., P.E.
Chief Engineer
Land Protection Division

xc: Mr. Jim Barwick, OAG
Mr. Jim Ellis, SFC