March 30, 2005

MEMORANDUM TO: Jack Guttmann, Section Chief
Repository Site Section
Technical Review Directorate
Division of High-Level Waste Repository Safety, NMSS

FROM: Lawrence E. Kokajko, Deputy Director /RA/
Division of High-Level Waste Repository Safety, NMSS

SUBJECT: CERTIFICATION OF TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS

I have determined, based on my review of your professional background, work experience, and education, that you are qualified to perform technical and regulatory reviews on high-level waste (HLW) disposal work at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), and to perform licensing activities for the high-level waste repository.

My review of your professional background indicates that you have more than 28 years of professional experience with NRC, which includes, but is not limited to the following activities:

1. Ten years performing reactor reviews. These include: licensing reactor systems (e.g., Calvert Cliffs, Waterford, South Texas, Hope Creek, Oconee, Summer, Kewaunee, Palo Verde); developing Safety Evaluation Reports; performing Quality Assurance audits on the major vendors (e.g., Babcock and Wilcox, Combustion Engineering, General Electric, and Westinghouse); identifying research and development needs for Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR); and serving as NRR's representative on the following committees: Advanced Code Review Committee, Loss of Fluid Test (LOFT) Review Committee, Semiscale Review Committee, and Automated Data Processing Long Range Planning Committee. Served as a member on the Bulletins and Orders Task Force following the accident at Three Mile Island. First NRC employee to review and approve the Westinghouse Emergency Operator Procedures covering transients, accidents, and severe core damage events. Served as Section Chief for the Reactor Systems Branch. Managed multi-million dollar contracts at Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL), Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Sandia National Laboratory (SNL), Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL), Argonne National Laboratory, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and Savannah River National Laboratory. Revised Chapter 15 of Nuclear Regulatory Document on Standard Review Plan for Licensing Reactors (NUREG-0800), and presented 3-weeks of lectures in the Peoples Republic of China on the Standard Review Plan and how to perform thermal-hydraulic analyses of transients and accident design basis events.

2. Four years experience in the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) implementing the Commission's Policy (Staff Requirement Memorandum [SRM] dated August 16, 1995) on "Use of Probabilistic Risk Analysis (PRA) Methods in Nuclear Regulatory Activities." You managed the project and developed a Regulatory Guidance

Documents (Regulatory Guide [RG] 1.178 on Risk-Informed Inservice Inspection Programs for Piping in Nuclear Reactors, RG 1.174, 1.175, 1.175, 1.177, and 1.178, SECY-97-190, and SECY-98-139). You also developed the Standard Review Plan for RG-1.178. This activity was first-of-a-kind for the NRC and the industry.

3. You have five years experience in licensing dry storage casks and transportation canisters for spent nuclear fuel and independent spent fuel storage installations (ISFSIs). You were the Section Chief for the Technical Review Section B in Spent Fuel Project Office (SFPO) and headed the first license renewal review for an ISFSI, the first PRA for dry storage of spent nuclear fuel, and led the approval of natural convective heating in spent fuel storage casks and numerous of licensing applications.

   You led the technical resolution and litigation for the Private Fuel Storage (PFS) License Application. You testified at the hearings, you were deposed and you lead the staff's technical team during the litigation with the State of Utah. The Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) sided with the staff and the Commission, in the matter of the seismic design, where the Commission referenced your efforts as basis to deny the State's appeal. Recently, the ASLB sided with the staff's position on aircraft crashes for the PFS License Application in which you were instrumentally involved.

   You also managed the technical staff's activities in responding to the 9-11 terrorist events assessment. You were responsible for the technical contracts with SNL and Laboratory reporting to the Department of Transportation laboratories and established a Federal Advisory Committee Act committee to estimate the source terms that would result from the various events analyzed. Your work resulted in Boeing confirming the analytic aircraft model used in the studies as an accurate representation.

4. You have five-years experience as a Technical Assistant to Commissioner Remick and was responsible for advising the Commissioner on policy issues related to Advanced Reactor programs, Safety Goals Implementation, research activities, NRC budget, Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste and Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards issues, international activities (resulting in the Commissioner being the first presidential appointee to visit Taiwan, after a lengthy embargo), and represented the Commission on the industry's Advanced Reactor Advisory Group. You also represented the Commission at an Institute for Nuclear Power Operators inspection of the Waterford Nuclear Power Plant.

5. You have four-years experience working for the Secretary of the Commission, responsible for obtaining timely Commission consensus on every issue that resulted in a SRM. Among your many accomplishments you were a focal point that led the Commission to approve the creation of a Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analysis. Your achievements resulted in being awarded several Commission commendations, including the Meritorious Service Award.

Your formal education includes a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering and a Masters of Science Degree in Nuclear Engineering. You have demonstrated knowledge and application of NRC requirements, policies, management directives, guidance and review procedures, and Office and Division procedures in your many technical and policy development assignments. Your formal education, together with your course work and your extensive work

experience at NRC, provide me with substantial evidence of your capability to perform technical and regulatory reviews on HLW disposal work at NRC.

Thus, through an evaluation of your employment history and my observations of your work, I have concluded that you understand and have satisfied the training and qualification requirements described in NRC Inspection Manual Chapter 1246 (IMC 1246), “Formal Qualification Programs in the Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards Program Area,” April 14, 2003, and that you have the necessary skills and experience to perform assigned tasks related to High-Level Waste Repository Safety technical reviews and licensing activities to which you have been assigned. Therefore, you are hereby certified as qualified to perform technical and licensing reviews on high-level waste disposal.

Note that IMC 1246 requires post-qualification and periodic refresher training. Section XV, Appendix A, IMC 1246 states that refresher training will be conducted every three years following certification and will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

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