

March 31, 2005

MEMORANDUM TO: Janet P. Kotra, Senior Project Manager
Projects B Section
Licensing and Inspection Directorate
Division of High-Level Waste Repository Safety, NMSS

FROM: Elmo E. Collins, 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 and licensing activities for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) high-level waste (HLW) repository program.

My review of your professional background indicates that you have more than twenty-one years of experience at the NRC, including:

1. Eleven and one-half years performing regulatory development and policy analysis related to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) high-level radioactive waste repository program, including a major role in developing NRC's regulations for disposal of high-level radioactive wastes in a geologic repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada at 10 CFR Part 63.
2. Seven years providing policy analysis, technical assistance and guidance to Commissioners Bernthal (1985-1988), Curtiss (1989-1983), and McGaffigan (2-month detail in 2003) on radioactive waste management issues, including storage, transport, and disposal of such waste.
3. Specific assignments in the high-level waste program have included: Project Manager from (1993 until 2003); and Senior Project Manager for HLW Regulatory Communications (since 2003). During your tenure with the HLW staff, you contributed to staff presentations before the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Committee on the Technical Bases for Yucca Mountain Standards; participated in the analysis and response to the Report of that

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Committee; participated in and served as project manager for development of staff guidance on the use of expert elicitation in the high-level radioactive waste program (NUREG-1563); developed recommendations for a strategy to revise NRC standards for licensing a potential repository at Yucca Mountain response to the Energy Policy Act of 1992 and the NAS recommendations (SECY-99-299); participated in developing the basis for the Commission's December 1999 decision to defer reexamination of its 1990 Waste Confidence findings; and participated in the drafting, conduct of public meetings, resolution of comments and completion of proposed and final rulemaking for 10 CFR Part 63.

Your formal education includes a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from the University of Hawaii and Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Analytical, Nuclear and Environmental Chemistry from the University of Maryland. You have continued your training throughout your career by completing several HLW and other related training courses, including: Licensing and Evaluation of a High-Level Waste Geologic Repository (H-415); Performance Assessment for a HLW Repository; Performance Assessment Technology; introductory and advanced courses on Occupational and Environmental Radiation Protection and Biological Effects of Ionizing Radiation (which I consider as fulfilling the requirement for the H-403 HLW Health Physics course); Introduction to Probabilistic Risk Assessment (PRA); Probability and Statistics for PRA; PRA-Offsite Consequences; and Geotechnical Aspects of Waste Disposal. 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 project management 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 high-level radioactive waste disposal work at NRC.

Thus, through an evaluation of your employment history and discussions with your Section Chief, I have concluded that you understand and have satisfied the training and qualification requirements described in NRC Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 1246, "Formal Qualification Programs in the NMSS Program Area," April 14, 2003, and that you have the necessary skills and experience to perform assigned tasks related to high-level technical and regulatory reviews to which you have been assigned. Therefore, you are hereby certified as qualified to perform technical and regulatory reviews for the high-level waste disposal project.

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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