

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Services



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

May 18, 2005

Keith E. Asmussen, Ph.D.
Director, Licensing, Safety and Nuclear Compliance
General Atomics
3550 General Atomics Court
San Diego, CA 92121-1194

GENERAL ATOMICS (GA) LETTER DATED APRIL 4, 2005, ON LEAD AGENCY FOR
THE RELEASE OF GA'S NUCLEAR WASTE PROCESSING FACILITY AND
ADJACENT SURROUNDING AREAS TO UNRESTRICTED USE

Dear Dr. Asmussen:

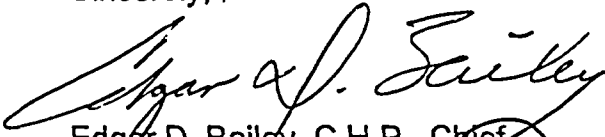
Reference is made to your letter dated April 4, 2005, requesting the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), instead of the California Department of Health Services (CDHS), Radiologic Health Branch, take the lead for the release of GA's Nuclear Waste Processing Facility (NWPf) and adjacent areas for unrestricted use. We have considered your request and have determined that since the NWPf received wastes from activities involving the use of *special nuclear material* licensed by the NRC (e.g., U-235 in the form of enriched uranium) and in quantities that required Criticality Warning Alarm Systems to be installed, it is appropriate for the NRC to have the lead responsibility. The NRC will perform a confirmatory survey of the NWPf and adjacent areas as described in your letter dated April 4, 2005, and share the results with the State consistent with our previous agreement with the NRC (see the letters between CDHS and NRC dated January 13, 1999; April 23, 1999 and June 2, 2000).

The NRC and the CDHS will proceed with the cooperative effort outlined in the agreement, regarding the General Atomics Site Decommissioning Plan approved by NRC in SNM-696, License Amendment 45, issued April 20, 1998, and by CDHS in License 0145, License Amendment 127, dated August 26, 1997. The CDHS may obtain random split soil samples during the NRC confirmatory survey.

Keith E. Asmussen
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If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Sudana Kwok at (916) 440-7948.

Sincerely, .

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edgar D. Bailey".

Edgar D. Bailey, C.H.P., Chief
Radiologic Health Branch

cc: Mr. Merritt N. Baker
Fuel Cycle Licensing Branch/Section 1
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop T-8A33
Two White Flint North
11557 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852-2738