

June 15, 2005

MEMORANDUM TO: B. Jennifer Davis, Section Chief
Environmental Review Section
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

FROM: Matthew Blevins, Senior Project Manager /**RA**/
Environmental Review Section
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

SUBJECT: MAY 24, 2005, TELEPHONE SUMMARY: USEC INC. OPEN
RESPONSES TO REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON
ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT AND EIS SCHEDULE DELAY

On May 24, 2005, staff from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and its technical assistance contractor, ICF Consulting held a telephone conference call with staff from USEC Inc. (USEC) to discuss the status of the remaining USEC responses to NRC's February 23, 2005, "Request for Additional Information (RAI) on the USEC Inc. Proposed American Centrifuge Plant (ACP) Environmental Report." In addition, NRC staff provided details on the two month schedule delay in publishing the draft environmental impact statement. The NRC staff reiterated the need for comprehensive, high-quality and timely USEC responses to allow the NRC to continue its preparation of the draft environmental impact statement. The NRC staff indicated that it would be available to discuss the RAIs in meetings or conference calls.

Docket: 70-7004

Attachment: Telephone Summary for Environmental Review

cc: See attached list

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TELEPHONE SUMMARY
USEC Inc. Open Responses
to Environmental Review RAIs and EIS Schedule Delays

Date and Time: May 24, 2005; 1:30 PM

Call Participants:

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission: M. Blevins

ICF Inc.: S. Wyngarden

USEC Inc.: K. Coriell

Purpose: To discuss the status of USEC's remaining RAI responses and to discuss schedule delays. The NRC's request for additional environmental information was provided to USEC by letter dated February 23, 2005. During the conference call, the NRC staff requested further information on several topics as summarized below.

RAI Discussion Summary:

- USEC to provide information on how to scale the air emission estimates for centrifuge manufacturing in DOE/EA-1451 to reflect the scale of manufacturing needed for the ACP.
- USEC to provide information describing the nature of and any controls for any liquid effluents expected from centrifuge manufacturing.
- USEC to review previously submitted export controlled information and proprietary response on centrifuge manufacturing and provide details as to what NRC can use in the publicly available DEIS including whether the location State can be named and whether manufacturing will be in existing buildings.
- USEC to provide estimate of the fraction of the manufacturing likely to occur at the different candidate sites.
- USEC to provide the fold-out maps referenced as part of the Schweikart et al 1997 report.
- USEC to provide quantitative information on the anticipated hydrogen fluoride concentrations in the inside workspace air during operations of the ACP.

Schedule Summary:

The NRC then summarized the schedule delays. The delays are a result of the removal of documents from the NRC's public web site and delays in responses to certain NRC RAIs from USEC.

The Commission issued the USEC order on October 7, 2004, which established a goal for issuance of a final Commission decision within 30 months from the date the application was received. In order to support this schedule, the NRC staff had developed an 18 month schedule to complete the FEIS. Based on this schedule, the DEIS was initially scheduled to be issued on July 1, 2005.

On October 25, 2004, the NRC initiated an additional security review to ensure that potentially sensitive information was removed from the agency Web site. During this review, ADAMS was temporarily unavailable to the public and resulted in a delay of the NRC's public scoping meeting and subsequently caused a delay in issuance of the NRC's environmental RAIs. The NRC staff issued environmental RAIs on February 23, 2005, with a requested response time of 30 days. USEC provided many responses between March 25, 2005, and May 4, 2005. USEC had responded to most of the RAIs with its May 4, 2005, submittal of Revision 1 of its Environmental Report. However, as of June 8, 2005, six RAIs still require more information.

The NRC staff informed USEC that the current schedule calls for publication of the DEIS on September 9, 2005, and the FEIS on April 14, 2006, and further indicated that additional delays were possible if USEC did not provide the remaining responses by June 15, 2005. It is uncertain as to whether this delay will affect the overall 30-month licensing schedule as it will depend on how the hearing is conducted.