

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION RECORD

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License No. 34-00507-16
Docket No. 030-05626

CALLER: George M. McCann, Senior Health Physicist
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Region III
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DATE: April 27, 2005 (Wednesday)

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING REQUEST FOR A
POSSESSION ONLY LICENSE AUTHORIZATION FOR ACTIVATED
CADMIUM CONTROL RODS ON A TEMPORARY STORAGE PAD

The licensee was advised that in responding to requests from licensees wishing to divest themselves of NRC licensed radioactive material in their possession, but claim an inability to do so, that the licensing staff has to make a regulatory judgment regarding the request. The following was discussed in general, and the licensee's Radiation Safety Officer was requested to respond to the following in writing:

1. Verification of the licensee's claim of inability to divest itself of the material. The licensee must provide information, in writing, to substantiate the claim, addressing the following points:
 - A. Has the manufacturer, or material supplier, been requested to take the material back, or is the manufacturer or material supplier out of business?
 - B. Ability of the licensee to safely possess and store the material for an extended period of time (e.g., until a DOE storage facility is available for GTCC material, or until the material has been processed making it suitable for disposal at a commercial facility).

The NRC staff has determined that general storage provisions are adequate for the temporary storage of the activated cadmium control rods. However, possession only activities are expected to be of short duration (e.g., 24 months), and the licensee is expected to be actively working to transfer the waste to an approved site during that period of time. The current commitment contained in the December 15, 2004, letter does not provide sufficient detail to satisfy our needs for NASA's intent to limit and

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ultimately dispose of the activated cadmium control rods in a timely manner.

Therefore, the licensee was requested to describe in greater detail, the NASA plan to move the waste off site, including written agreements and time schedules for followup. The plan should be provided via a letter to this Office from a senior NASA manager responsible for the site, and should describe its initiatives and commit to the Agency's intent to actively work to remove the waste from the John H. Glenn Research Center as soon as practicable. This may include a greater discussion of the NASA HQ activities.

- C Confirm that funding for the disposal and possibly the recycling of the cadmium has been established. Is the disposal of this material currently funded? If not when will the funding be set aside?
- 2. NASA indicates in its December 15, 2004, letter the consideration for alternate disposal methods such as a recycle/reuse program. The possibility of transferring the waste to DOE is also discussed. These options need to be discussed in greater detail, and indicate when these activities could take place.
- 3. Has NASA determined that there are no other NASA sites or licensees to whom the activated control rods could be transferred, which would have permanent facilities for housing the material?

The licensee was advised that the write-up of the EA and FONSI for the licensing action is progressing and should be done soon. However, the above needs to be addressed so the EA can be finalized.

The licensee's Radiation Safety Officer requested that this conversation record be e-mailed to him

No further

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