September 8, 2005

MEMORANDUM TO: William Ruland, Deputy Director
Licensing and Inspection Directorate
Spent Fuel Projects Office
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

FROM: Scott Flanders, Deputy Director ***/RA/***
Environmental and Performance
Assessment Directorate
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

SUBJECT: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REQUEST - REVIEW OF PRELIMINARY DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR DECOMMISSIONING AND/OR LONG-TERM STEWARDSHIP OF THE WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (DOCKET NO. POOM-032)

The Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection (DWMEP), Environmental and Performance Assessment Directorate (EPAD), Environmental Review Section (ERS), requests technical assistance in the completion of the following project:

Project: Review of the Preliminary Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Decommissioning and/or Long-Term Stewardship for the West Valley Demonstration Project and Western New York Nuclear Service Center

Docket No: POOM-032

TAC No: Not fee billable, no specific TAC established. An internal division TAC should be used in HRMS for recording staff time expended on this effort.

CONTACTS: Ron Linton, Primary PM, NMSS/DWMEP
Neil Haggerty, Back-up PM, NMSS/DWMEP
Carol Walls, LA, NMSS/DWMEP

Background: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is expected to submit a preliminary draft EIS for Decommissioning and/or Long-Term Stewardship for the West Valley Demonstration Project and Western New York Nuclear Service Center by September 15, 2005. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), along with several New York State agencies, is a cooperating agency with the DOE in the development of the EIS. The review period for the preliminary draft EIS will last five (5) months, ending with transmittal of NRC comments to DOE on or about February 15, 2006. The DOE anticipates two technical review workshops to support the EIS review. The first workshop is scheduled to take place in Washington, D.C. approximately 2½ months after receipt of the EIS for review (late November or early December 2005), and the second would occur approximately one month after NRC comments are transmitted to DOE (mid-March 2006). The dates for completion of preliminary comments and final comments and the estimated dates for workshops are based on the assumption that the EIS will be received on September 15, 2005. The schedule will be adjusted accordingly based upon the receipt date of the preliminary draft EIS. The sections and appendices listed for review are based on a working outline provided by DOE (attached). There may be some changes to the chapter and appendix designations, but the changes should not be substantial.

Requested Action:

ERS requests that your Section:

(1) Perform a review of the preliminary draft EIS in the area(s) of:

- Project Description and Alternatives (Chapter 2)
- Transportation Impact Analysis (Appendix J)
- Miscellaneous EIS sections that are linked to the technical subject listed above

(2) Prepare a preliminary set of questions and/or comments by November 22, 2005 (approximately 60 days from the date DOE submits the EIS) using electronic comment form/format to be provided by ERS;

(3) Prepare a final set of questions and/or comments by January 20, 2006, (approximately three weeks before the end of the comment period for the preliminary draft EIS) using electronic comment form/format to be provided by ERS;

(4) Engage and/or discuss preliminary comments with other NRC and cooperating agency reviewers that may be reviewing similar sections of the EIS;

(5) Attend the technical review workshops, if requested, in late November to early December 2005 (in Washington, D.C.) and mid-March 2006 (location to be determined) to discuss comments with DOE;

(6) Participate in meetings, conference calls, and site visits, as necessary.

We estimate that the full review will require approximately 120 hours.

The above Docket No. (POOM-032) should be referenced in future correspondence related to the activities associated with this request and an internal division TAC No. should be used in HRMS for recording staff time expended on this effort.

Please complete the attached concurrence section, including providing the name(s) of the individuals who will be responsible for the EIS reviews and return a completed copy to B. Jennifer Davis, Chief, ERS.

To facilitate this request, we ask that you respond by September 13, 2005, and that the reviewer be available to participate in a kick-off meeting with the EIS Project Manager in mid-September, upon receipt of the preliminary draft EIS.

Concurrence:

Project Description and Alternatives

Name of Reviewer(s): _____

EIS Section: **Transportation Impact Analysis**

Name of Reviewer(s): _____

Deputy Director Signature: _____

Attachment: DOE Working Outline (ML052370197)

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Concurrence:

Project Description and Alternatives

Name of Reviewer(s): _____

EIS Section: **Transportation Impact Analysis**

Name of Reviewer(s): _____

Deputy Director Signature: _____

Attachment: DOE Working Outline (ML052370197)

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