

From: Brooke Smith
To: Marjorie McLaughlin
Date: Wed, Sep 7, 2005 3:50 PM
Subject: OGC Comments: Environmental Assessment for Whittaker

Margie - I have the following comments:

EA/FONSI FRN:

- 1) Introduction, 1st sent. should read: "The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering the issuance of . . ."
- 2) Intro. 2nd and 3rd sent. should begin: "The proposed action would allow for the ..." and "The proposed action also includes NRC approval..."
- 3) Intro. Delete last sent. "The amendment will be issued following..."
- 4) FONSI: Revise last sent. to read: "On the basis of the EA, the NRC has concluded that there are no significant environmental impacts from the proposed action and has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action."

EA

- 1) Conform "Introduction" to format/guidance provided in NUREG 1748 pg E-10. The information in the "Summary" and "Introduction" can be combined into a single "Introduction" section or shorten the current "Summary" section.

Please let me know if you have any questions (301-415-2490). Neil Jensen, acting for Stuart Treby, has also reviewed the attached documents and has provided a "no legal objection" as long as the above comments are incorporated.

Brooke

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>>> Marjorie McLaughlin 09/01/05 3:05 PM >>>
Brooke:

Several months ago, I sent a Draft EA for Renewal of the NRC license for Whittaker Corporation in Greenville, PA and amendment of the license to allow for crushing/blending of their material to meet the Waste Acceptance Criteria at Waste Control Specialists in Texas.

Since that time, the proposed action to amend Whittaker's license to allow crushing/blending has hit snags with Texas, as you know. Additionally, Scientech (Whittaker's decommissioning contractor) has found through waste characterization at the site, that they do not possess sufficient quantities of low level material to blend to meet WCS's WAC anyway. The end result, is that Whittaker is no longer seeking approval for crushing and blending, and that they now intend to dispose of their waste as licensed material at an approved disposal facility.

Whittaker is preparing their Decommissioning Plan describing this.

In the meantime, I am now processing renewal of Whittaker's license to allow continued D&D of the site. A new EA has been prepared for this action and the draft is attached to this message. I am providing this draft EA for your review and comment (and the draft FRN and FRN Memo). Again, this EA is for renewal of the license and amendment to accept DCGLs which had been proposed by Whittaker. They are using the DCGLs in support of preparing their DP. The DCGLs had also been a part of the previous EA.

PADEP has reviewed and concurred with the EA already.

I am hoping to get this out as soon as possible, and I was wondering if you could review it next week? Please let me know if this causes you any difficulties,

Thank you for your assistance,

Marjorie McLaughlin
Health Physicist
Decommissioning Branch
USNRC Region I

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