

December 13, 2005

Kathleen Trever, Administrator
INL Oversight and Radiation Control Division
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
900 N. Skyline, Suite B
Idaho Falls, ID 83402

SUBJECT: PUBLICATION OF DRAFT INTERIM CONCENTRATION AVERAGING
GUIDANCE

Dear Ms. Trever:

Enclosed please find a copy of the Federal Register Notice (FRN) containing draft interim guidance on concentration averaging for waste determinations submitted by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The NRC is issuing this draft interim guidance for public comment. The FRN discusses the fundamental principles of radioactive waste classification and provides guidance on concentration averaging that is specific to the types of waste and situations typically evaluated in DOE waste determinations. This draft interim guidance is applicable only to waste determinations at DOE sites.

The NRC is currently in the process of preparing a Standard Review Plan (SRP) that will provide guidance to NRC staff in reviewing waste determinations submitted by DOE. Because several stakeholders are interested in obtaining NRC guidance on concentration averaging as soon as practicable, NRC is issuing this draft interim guidance prior to completion of the entire draft SRP. This guidance will be incorporated into the draft SRP and any comments received on the guidance will be evaluated at the same time as other public comments on the draft SRP. Release of the draft SRP for public comment is currently scheduled for Spring 2006.

If you have any questions on the attached FRN, please contact me at (301) 415-7257.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Ryan Whited, Chief
Low-Level Waste Section
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosure: As stated.

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