

From: "Joyce, Donald" <donjoyce@anl.gov>
To: <ROM@nrc.gov> (RES)
Date: 4/14/06 4:40PM
Subject: Re: Hot Cell Needs for NRC Program

Ralph,

My understanding is the same as your understanding. This is that Argonne has found alternatives to the alpha gamma hotcell in facilities at Oak Ridge and BWXT. The BWXT facilities would be used to defuel cladding which will then be tested. Both Oak Ridge and BWXT have agreed to participate. I do not know whether there remain contractual points to complete and Mike Billone will need to address this directly..

Argonne remains fully committed to assuring this important NRC work is completed.

I hope this email satisfies your needs.

Don

-----Original Message-----

From: Ralph Meyer
To: Joyce, Donald
CC: Billone, Michael C.
Sent: Fri Apr 14 13:27:57 2006
Subject: Hot Cell Needs for NRC Program

Don,

Mike Billone and I had a good visit at Oak Ridge on March 30. The staff there are clearly interested in doing the tests involving UO₂, and Oak Ridge has a good facility for this work, provided it is done under the supervision of Mike and his people who have developed the specialized techniques.

I also understand that Argonne is making arrangements for some near-term defueling at BWXT to provide specimens for testing in the IML hot cells at Argonne. This seems like a good arrangement, also.

By May 10, I have to inform the Commission of "efforts to complete the NRC fuel clad research projects jeopardized by recently announced facility closures at Argonne National Laboratory." This assignment was given in a Staff Requirements Memorandum (February 17, 2006) and is being tracked by the NRC Secretary. This is the highest level assignment given at NRC.

To reply to the Commission effectively, I think I need something in writing that says that Argonne has reached agreement in principle with BWXT and Oak Ridge to perform the needed work and that contractual arrangements will be completed in time to avoid further delays. All we have now are verbal statements of intent. This written statement could be a reply to Dr. Paperiello's letter of January 24 or a simple e-mail from you to me. Whatever form you chose, we would prefer to make the reply publicly available because we have many partners in this research project and there appears to be significant public interest. Beyond informing the Commission, we need this level of assurance to continue with our plans for rulemaking and for resolution of other issues, which depend on results from this program.

I hope you can help me with a piece of paper.

Ralph

CC: "Billone, Michael C." <billone@anl.gov>, "Rosner, Robert" <RRosner@anl.gov>

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Subject: Re: Hot Cell Needs for NRC Program
Creation Date: 4/14/06 4:40PM
From: "Joyce, Donald" <donjoyce@anl.gov>

Created By: donjoyce@anl.gov

Recipients

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