

nmss
From: Robert Einziger
To: Bailey, Marissa
Date: 1/18/06 10:19AM
Subject: Fwd: News to Me

Marissa,

Attached is the notice of the hot cell closing that was sent to me by Mike Billone of ANL.

I have additional information on the subject garnered from a conversation with Mike. About 6 months ago Mike wrote an business plan that identified a shortfall of funding for the AGHCF. At the same time ANL personnel did a laboratory wide self assessment with few safety problems identified. Subsequently, the DOE Office of Assessment did an audit and wrote ANL a 10 page letter of deficiencies of which about 20% were related to the hot cells. According to Mike, none of the hot cell deficiencies are actual safety issues, but rather deal with improper or insufficient paperwork. next the DOE Office of Enforcement issued a hefty fine to ANL.

The laboratory director issued the attached notice , closing the hot cells to programmatic work, for an apparent financial reason that he does not want an Office of Science lab subsidizing the hot cells. Since the time of the original business plan, ANL landed a \$9M program from WIPP for waste work that will make the hot cells financially stable and will be continuing under the guise of waste consolidation from the other parts of the lab and cleanup. Mike isn't sure if Rosner has taken into account the \$9M in his financial projections or if he knows about the \$7M NRC has committed to programs at ANL. Rosners ALDs do know about the funding.

On Jan. 25th, Rosner, the ANL Director will be meeting with DOE to try and get the fine reduced. Mike's opinion, and it is only opinion, is that Rosner might be using the hot cells as a sacrificial lamb to show the office of enforcement that ANL is being proactive.

If we do not have the data from this program, we will not be able to determine the mechanical behavior of the high burn up rods in transportation. This throws issues into the criticality calculations. Other approaches are being formulated that may require the industry (DOE) to obtain the data, require a change in the design or payload of a TAD or other less optimal solutions. All will cause a delay in our ability to licence a TAD. From the DOE point of view they will not know the condition of the rods as they reach the repository.

I will keep you updated as I get further information

RE Einziger

CC: Bjorkman, Gordon; Hodges, M. Wayne; Ree1

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Subject: Fwd: News to Me
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From: Robert Einziger

Created By: REE1@nrc.gov

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 MGB (Marissa Bailey)

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