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RES

From: Samuel Lee
To: Ralph Meyer
Date: 1/31/06 10:23AM
Subject: Fwd: REPLY RE: PROPOSED D-NOTE - Unavailability of Argonne facility

Thanks for the info, Ralph. Please incorporate this information to the D-note and revise it as necessary. I will forward you a copy of the e-mail that I had sent earlier with questions to be addressed in the D-note.
sam x1722

>>> Ralph Meyer 01/31/06 9:56 AM >>>
Sam,

The AGHCF has been closed to our program since July 26. We have been expecting approval to resume work in AGHCF since September. Every month there is something else related to several DOE audits of the facility and ANL plans to correct procedural deficiencies (problems were not caused by our program). After 5 months of this, we might have expected the worst, but we were completely surprised by the announcement in the Argonne News.

During the past two weeks there have been calls to ANL from some of our partners in this program (EPRI, Framatome, DOE-NE) as well as calls from RES and NMSS. After the letter was sent from Carl to the ANL lab director, I have had several calls and e-mail exchanges with the ANL lab director and his deputy. We may have a path forward.

We are moving equipment from the AGHCF (a nuclear facility) to a lower-level hot cell facility (not a nuclear facility) at ANL, thus reducing our activities in the AGHCF by about 80%. This helps ANL with its problems. I am hopeful that ANL will now let us complete the remaining 20% of our work in AGHCF. There is no other lab in the world that can do this work without large cost increases and extensive startup delays (years).

This work is on the critical path for planned rulemaking to begin this year on 50.46(b), the performance-based LOCA criteria that are needed to handle high-burnup fuel and newer alloys like M5. It is also providing the basis for criteria for transportation cask licensing (no criteria yet for high-burnup fuel).

Ralph

>>> Samuel Lee 01/30/06 6:00 PM >>>
Farouk,

I have yet to hear back from you on this... I heard that this information has hit the street and has appeared in some article - do you have a copy of this by any chance? Apparently, a Commissioner learned this information from a different source and was asking Bill Dean about it.
sam x1722

CC: Farouk Eltawila; Harold Scott; John Voglewede; Patrick Baranowsky

A-22

From: Samuel Lee
To: Ralph Meyer
Date: 1/31/06 10:24AM
Subject: Fwd: REPLY RE: PROPOSED D-NOTE - Unavailability of Argonne facility

Ralph,
Please see the imbedded for the questions raised in OEDO - to be addressed in the D-note. Thanks.
sam x1722

CC: Farouk Eltawila; Patrick Baranowsky