

July 6, 2006

Mr. Robert E. Link, Manager
Environmental, Health, Safety and Licensing
AREVA NP, Inc.
2101 Horn Rapids Road
Richland, WA 99352-0130

SUBJECT: ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF AREVA NP (RICHLAND) - ALTERNATE SCHEDULE
FOR DECOMMISSIONING AT MODULAR EXTRACTION/RECOVERY
FACILITY (TAC L31960)

Dear Mr. Link:

We have received your statement of the operational status of the Modular Extraction/Recovery Facility (MERF) at the AREVA NP Richland, Washington site, transmitted by letter dated June 21, 2006 (REL:06:018). Your request has been assigned Technical Assignment Control Number (TAC) L31960. Please reference this number in any future correspondence associated with this request.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) considers this letter a request for an alternate schedule for decommissioning of the MERF as required by 10 CFR 70.38(f).

Please note that the complete review may identify omissions or technical issues that require additional information. Based on our acceptance review and projection of current review schedules, we anticipate completing our review by February 2007. This date could change depending on the findings of our technical review, urgent assignments, or other factors. We will promptly communicate any significant changes to this schedule.

In addition, a copy of your submittal has been forwarded to the License Fee and Accounts Receivable Branch, Office of the Chief Financial Officer, who will contact you separately if the appropriate license fee has not been submitted for your request, or for billing if your request is subject to full cost fee recovery.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-6155 or via e-mail to mnrb@nrc.gov.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Sincerely,

/RA/

Merritt N. Baker, Project Manager
Fuel Cycle Facilities Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
and Safeguards
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 70-1257
License No.: SNM-1227

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Sincerely,

/RA/

Merritt N. Baker, Project Manager
Fuel Cycle Facilities Branch
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Docket No.: 70-1257
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