

REGION I TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REQUEST				
Date:	July 24, 2006	Package Accession No.	ML003741979	
ADAMS Send to:	Dominick Orlando Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection, NMSS			
From:	George Pangburn, Director Division of Nuclear Materials Safety			
Original signed by:		/RA Michael Layton/		
Licensee:	Westinghouse Electric Company (former licensee) Westinghouse Specialty Metals Plant			
License No.	SNM-37 (terminated) SUC-509 (terminated)	Docket No.	070-00026 040-03558	Control No. NA
Letter Dated:	February 15, 2006	ADAMS Accession No.	ML060600372	
Enforcement Action being held in abeyance:		<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Problem or Issue:				
<p>The Westinghouse Specialty Metals Plant (WSMP) in Blairsville, PA, was operated from 1955 to 1961 as a Research and Development (R&D) and manufacturing facility for commercial and naval fuel utilizing low-enriched uranium, high-enriched uranium, and depleted uranium under AEC licenses SNM-37 and SUC-509. The licenses were terminated on July 1, 1961, and December 31, 1964, respectively. The facility continues manufacturing operations, but radioactive materials have not been used in facility operations since license termination.</p> <p>As a result of reviews of terminated licenses conducted by the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) and the NRC in the early 1990s, the WSMP was identified as not having sufficient documentation to verify that the facility had been properly decontaminated prior to license termination. Westinghouse voluntarily conducted detailed radiological surveys that identified internal and external areas where further remediation was needed to meet applicable radiological criteria for release for unrestricted use. From late 1994 through 2001, Westinghouse staff and contractors performed remediation activities and conducted final status surveys. Westinghouse and their contractors performed substantial investigations and surveys throughout the remainder of the facility and site grounds, but did not identify any radiological concerns from past operations. Remediation and survey activities were conducted in stages so that plant operations would not be affected. Interior remediation activities consisted primarily of removing superficial concrete and paint on floor and wall surfaces, removing</p>				

contaminated concrete around floor penetrations (equipment anchor bolts), excavating contaminated drain lines and sumps, and removing contaminated soil under contaminated drain lines that had leaked. Exterior remediation activities included removing debris from a quarry area where contaminated zirconium fines were burned and removal of drain lines, contaminated soil and building rubble from the vicinity of a former waste treatment and packaging building. All radioactive waste was disposed at a licensed low-level waste disposal facility.

Because the Blairsville facility is a formerly licensed facility and has no current NRC license, remediation and survey activities were conducted without a Decommissioning Plan. Region I staff conducted periodic inspections of the remediation and survey activities. Because contamination at the facility was identified at approximately the same time that the Site Decommissioning Management Plan (SDMP) was initiated, Westinghouse, with verbal NRC approval, utilized the criteria identified in the SDMP Action Plan, principally the surface contamination criteria in Regulatory Guide 1.86, "Termination of Operating Licenses for Nuclear Reactors," June 1974 and Options 1 and 2 of the Branch Technical Position "Disposal or Onsite Storage of Thorium or Uranium Wastes from Past Operations" (46 FR 52601; October 23, 1981). The Blairsville facility was not listed on the SDMP list of contaminated sites, but was added to the NRC list of complex decommissioning site following elimination of the SDMP.

Westinghouse and their contractors performed numerous interior and exterior final status surveys of the facility to establish that the post-remediation conditions of the facility meet the appropriate SDMP Action Plan cleanup criteria. Additionally, in order to show that the facility would also meet the current NRC criteria for license termination (release for unrestricted use) in 10 CFR Part 20 Subpart L, Westinghouse's contractor performed computer dose calculations using the RESRAD and RESRAD BUILD programs and realistic exposure scenarios. Both sets of calculations show that annual doses are much less than the 25 mrem annual dose criteria in 10 CFR20.1402. Site specific input criteria was used for concentration inputs and size and thickness of the contaminated areas. Westinghouse also made minor changes to a few other parameters and provides justification for these changes in the supporting documentation. Westinghouse and their contractor selected a resident gardener exposure scenario for evaluation of exterior exposures, because groundwater contamination is not an issue at the site and other water sources are readily available in the site vicinity. In this exposure scenario, the groundwater pathway is turned off. However, RI also evaluated the licensee's dose assessments by turning the groundwater pathway and other water

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<p>dependent pathways on. It does not significantly change the calculated annual dose.</p>		
<p>Action Requested:</p> <p>Review relevant documentation provided for this site and confirm that the Westinghouse dose calculations are reasonable for this site.</p>		
<p>Recommended Action and Alternatives</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Reject</p>
<p>Concur with the Region I position that the calculated annual dose from the residual contamination at this site is a small fraction of the NRC annual dose limit. Concur that, although the site is not licensed, the facility meets the NRC dose criteria for license termination and that no further NRC action is needed for this site. Region I staff will prepare a Federal Register Notice announcing the availability of an Environmental Assessment and appropriate correspondence to be sent to Westinghouse and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to communicate the NRC position regarding the site.</p>		
<p>TARs addressing similar issues (subject, date and location):</p> <p>None to our knowledge; however, the Commission Paper documenting NRC's position on the Kiski Valley Water Pollution Control Authority site in Leechburg, PA (SECY 04-0102) has a few similarities in that a dose calculation was employed to justify no further NRC action on a facility with no NRC license.</p>		
<p>Background Documents (Include date and ADAMS Accession Number):</p> <p>There are 45 documents (41 unique) contained in the ADAMS Package ML003741974 that include various data summaries, survey data, and dose assessments. (Documents ML060620498, ML060620506, ML060620512, and ML060620525 are duplicates of other documents in the package). Many of the documents are over 500 pages. To assist the reviewer, see the two summary documents (ML060600380 and ML060600393), and the dose assessments (ML060610058, ML060610061, ML060610067, ML060610093, ML060610099, ML06061056, and ML060610164.)</p>		
<p>Remarks:</p> <p>While the milestone for completion of this action is February 15, 2007, this site could be resolved in Fiscal Year 2006.</p>		
<p>Reviewer: Mark Roberts</p>	<p>(610) 337- 5094</p>	<p>Reviewer Code: L8</p>
<p>Needed By (date): August 28, 2006</p>		

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Document Accession Numbers Included in Package ML003741979		
ML060600372	ML060610099	ML060610581
ML060600380	ML060610156	ML060610600
ML060600393	ML060610164	ML060620091
ML060600411	ML060610176	ML060620123
ML060600421	ML060610181	ML060620135
ML060600428	ML060610190	ML060620463
ML060600434	ML060610196	ML060620498
ML060600440	ML060610218	ML060620506
ML060600526	ML060610231	ML060620512
ML060600530	ML060610247	ML060620525
ML060600531	ML060610261	ML060660482
ML060610058	ML060610449	ML060660505
ML060610061	ML060610471	ML060660549
ML060610067	ML060610499	ML060660552
ML060600093	ML060610557	ML060660555

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SUNSI Review Completed by: MTM

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