

September 8, 2006

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

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF AREVA NP, INC.S (RICHLAND) ALTERNATE SCHEDULE
FOR DECOMMISSIONING AT MODULAR EXTRACTION/RECOVERY
FACILITY (TAC 31960)

Dear Mr. Link:

This letter is in response to your June 21, 2006, letter (REL:06:018) describing the operating status of the Modular Extraction/Recovery Facility (MERF) at the AREVA NP, Inc.'s Richland, Washington site.

Based on the information in the submittal, we have concluded that MERF activities have not expired or been revoked, and there has been no decision to permanently cease activities in MERF. The current radiological status of the facility, and your commitment to continue direct radiation and contamination surveys under the site ALARA and radiation protection programs are expected to reduce risks to workers, members of the public, and the environment. Therefore, MERF may be decommissioned with other areas of the site at termination of licensed activities.

Note, however, that if you decide to permanently cease activities in the MERF, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) should be notified and the issue re-examined.

This letter will close TAC L31960. If you have any questions, please contact me by phone at (301) 415-6155, or via e-mail to mnb@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 Electron 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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Merritt N. Baker, Project Manager
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(Closes TAC L31960)

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