

Rotation to the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety & Safeguards

This report highlights the varying experiences I have gained while on a rotation to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards (FCSS). While at FCSS, I was assigned to the Mixed Oxide (MOX) Branch in the Special Projects and Technical Support Directorate.

The job description for the rotation involved being an assistant to the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility (MFFF) Project Manager. This job entailed creating meeting summaries and preparing for public meetings. In addition to my duties as an assistant to the MFFF project manager, I requested that I be given some responsibility for the technical review of the License Application (LA) and Integrated Safety Analysis (ISA) summary. As a technical reviewer in the MOX branch, I was tasked with reviewing the mechanical systems during the acceptance review phase and forwarding any Requests for Additional Information (RAIs) I generated to the team leader. During my time at FCSS, I gained experience as both a technical reviewer and as a project manager.

As an assistant to the MFFF Project Manager, I performed many interesting tasks. My first task involved meeting with the applicant's staff and verifying that their slides would work on an NRC computer for a public meeting the next day. After the meeting, I drafted a meeting summary about that meeting. One of the duties of a project manager in the NRC involves keeping the public informed about the status of projects. In order to keep the public up-to-date about the MFFF, I updated the website with the current licensing information. Additionally, I wrote an article about the current licensing status of the MFFF in the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards Newsletter.

As a technical reviewer in the MOX branch, I performed many different tasks within my technical discipline of mechanical engineering. I was asked to review the mechanical systems section in the MFFF application to see if it was acceptable for technical review. The mechanical systems in a fuel fabrication facility can be broken out into two large areas: heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) and material handling systems. During the HVAC and material handling systems acceptance review, I crafted a number of RAIs and provided input to the team leader, as well as teleconferenced with the licensee. Another important task I completed was review of the license application and ISA summary for proprietary and security information.

In conclusion, I feel that my time spent in FCSS was well spent. I was able to gain experience in both the project management arena as well as in my technical discipline. I believe that being allowed to perform in both roles has helped facilitate an understanding of the constraints and concerns of both sides of a license review.

Enclosure