

July 5, 2007

MEMORANDUM TO: James P. Dwyer, Branch Chief  
Commercial and R&D Branch  
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

FROM: Lydia Chang, Branch Chief **/RA/**  
Special Projects Branch  
Division of Waste Management  
and Environmental Protection

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO CURTIS BAY MEMORANDUM, DATED  
MAY 30, 2007

This is in response to your memorandum, dated May 30, 2007 regarding the options for performing confirmatory surveys at Curtis Bay and Hammond Depot, License No. STC-133.

The first option of using the Radiological and Environmental Sciences Laboratory (RESL) to perform the confirmatory soil sample analysis is not considered practical because the scope of the RESL contract does not currently include sample analysis and revising the contract at this time would not be an efficient or effective approach, as it would take too long to revise the contract. More importantly, RESL provides the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) only independent quality assurance (QA) oversight for the Oak Ridge Institute of Science and Education (ORISE) laboratory and we need to preserve RESL independence for this task.

The second option of having blind soil samples sent to ORISE for analysis is possible. However, we do not recommend this approach because any errors introduced by ORISE's laboratory analysis methods will be manifested in the Final Safety Survey (survey design, implementation, and sample analyses) as well as the confirmatory sample analyses. Therefore, the utility of having ORISE perform confirmatory sample analyses would be negated.

If Region I has performed a sufficient number of in-process confirmatory surveys to have confidence in the ORISE results, it is recommended that no additional confirmatory surveys/analyses be conducted since NRC is not required to perform confirmatory surveys. If Region I did not perform an adequate number of in-process confirmatory surveys, or found numerous discrepancies during the in-process surveys, then it is recommended that Region I contract an outside laboratory (other than RESL or ORISE) to perform confirmatory analyses.

If there are any questions regarding the above options or path forward, please contact Ted Carter of my staff at 301-415-5543.

cc:

KMcConnell

DOrlando

JBukcley

If there are any questions regarding the above options or path forward, please contact Ted Carter of my staff at 301-415-5543.

cc:  
KMcConnell  
DOrlando  
JBukcley

DISTRIBUTION:

DURLD r/f                      RidsRgn1MailCenter

ML071780482

<b>OFC</b>	DWMEP/DURLD	DWMEP/DURLD
<b>NAME</b>	TCarter	LChang
<b>DATE</b>	6/27/07	07/05 /07

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY