

DOCKET: 70-1257

LICENSEE: AREVA NP, Inc.
Richland, WA

SUBJECT: SAFETY EVALUATION REPORT: SUBMITTAL DATED FEBRUARY 28, 2007,
REVISION TO FACILITY VENTILATION REQUIREMENTS (TAC L32619)

BACKGROUND

By cover letter dated February 28, 2007, AREVA NP, Inc. Richland, WA (AREVA) submitted revised pages 3-1 through 3-20, "Radiation Protection," and 5-1 through 5-8, "Environmental Protection" to Part 1 of existing license SNM-1227.

The revised pages also included the new name of the facility's parent company, AREVA NP, Inc., as a result of the change approved via Amendment 46.

DISCUSSION

The February 28, 2007, submittal included a new paragraph in Section 3.2.2 stating criteria which would allow modified ventilation requirements at the locations where processing has been suspended.

The key criteria are as follows:

General and process ventilation performance tests, including monthly smoke tests, room differential air pressure readings, air change rates, hood face velocity measurements, and HEPA filter pressure differential readings, would be suspended in radioactive contamination areas when all processing of uncontained or unencapsulated radioactive material are stopped, and controls are in place to preclude adverse impacts to workers or the environment. The controls would be determined by the Radiation Protection function, under the Environmental Safety, Health, and Licensing function.

A new paragraph in Section 5.1.1 states that sampling of process ventilation stacks would be suspended under the same conditions.

On March 29, 2007, the NRC staff participated in a telephone conference with the AREVA Regulatory Compliance and Health Physics managers. The purpose of the conference was to confirm the types of radiation protection controls that would be in place during the revised circumstances. Some of the controls described included the ventilation shut-down procedure, which is: stop ventilation, wait for conditions to stabilize, then obtain a sample of the atmosphere using a local air sampler. In addition, at the direction of the radiation protection function, it may be necessary to obtain a sampling history for key areas. Entrance doors to shut-down areas would be locked, and the areas would be posted to require radiation protection permission to enter. The re-start procedure for a previously shut down area may require a filter particulate removal test.

The controls described met the expectations of a sound, as low as reasonably achievable program, based on the practices described in Regulatory Guide 8.10, "Operating Philosophy for Maintaining Occupational Radiation Exposure As Low As Reasonably Achievable."

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The changes are considered administrative in nature. The staff has determined that the changes are categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare a site-specific environmental assessment. Therefore, in accordance with 10 CFR 51.22(c)(11), neither an environmental assessment nor an environmental impact statement is warranted for this action.

CONCLUSION

Upon review of the revisions the staff found that the changes are consistent with the regulatory requirements in 10 CFR Part 20. Accordingly, approval of the amendment request is recommended. Region II has reviewed this amendment request and has no objections.

PRINCIPAL CONTRIBUTORS

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