

[REDACTED]

March 09, 2005

MEMORANDUM TO: Michael T. Markley, Acting Chief
Fuel Manufacturing Section
Fuel Cycle Facilities Branch

FROM: William C. Gleaves, Project Manager /RA/
Fuel Manufacturing Section
Fuel Cycle Facilities Branch

SUBJECT: MEETING SUMMARY - FEBRUARY 23, 2005, PRE-LICENSING
CONSULTATION WITH BWX TECHNOLOGIES, INC., TO DISCUSS
THE PROPOSED [REDACTED] RECYCLE PROJECT

On February 23, 2005, BWXT representatives and their contractor held a pre-licensing consultation meeting with the staff concerning BWXT's proposed [REDACTED] recycle project. Significant points raised during the meeting include:

- BWXT proposes to develop a [REDACTED] process to separate commercially valuable [REDACTED] material from the [REDACTED] process. The [REDACTED] material contains relatively low levels of Technetium, Uranium, Thorium, Plutonium, and associated decay isotopes.
- BWXT proposes to sign a contract with [REDACTED] to purchase the materials and agree to keep the "cleaned" products within the [REDACTED]. However, BWXT's business case may also involve "free release" of the material. Representatives of the IMNS staff stated at the meeting that the applicable regulations are under revision and that the NRC would consider a case-specific application on release of solid materials.
- There is a current [REDACTED] moratorium on this type of work. To move forward, the [REDACTED] moratorium will have to be removed prior to the agreement with BWXT.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

M. Markley

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- BWXT has already visited the vendor, Chemical Vapor Metals Refining of Toronto Canada, and has purchased and installed laboratory equipment to conduct tests. BWXT plans to test samples of the [REDACTED] and the equipment in its laboratories in Lynchburg as a means of evaluating further feasibility. Results from the testing are expected to be available in May 2005.
- If feasible, BWXT plans to submit a license change request and an ISA in January 2006.
- If approved, BWXT plans [REDACTED]. BWXT proposes to begin initial operation by December 2006 with considerations made for [REDACTED]. BWXT stated that the [REDACTED] facility would require approximately a [REDACTED].
- BWXT plans to submit this change under Part 70 but not Subpart H, primarily because this is not a "fuel cycle" activity and there would not be a critical mass of SNM. BWXT proposes to license this as a decontamination activity. The SNM separated from the [REDACTED] will be waste and will not be used in the fuel cycle.
- The primary process hazard appears to be chemical [REDACTED] gas is a clear, highly flammable, highly reactive, carcinogenic, teratogenic, corrosive, and explosive gas with a low boiling point and high vapor pressure.
- This appears to be a major federal action and an EA would likely be necessary. Staff from NMSS/DWM attended this meeting.
- NRC representatives advised BWXT that this activity would likely require a public hearing.
- Additional information is needed to determine whether [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Docket No.: 70-27
License No.: SNM-42

Attachment:
List of Attendees

[REDACTED]

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- If feasible, BWXT plans to submit a license change request and an ISA in January 2006.
- If approved, BWXT plans to construct a [REDACTED]. BWXT proposes to begin initial operation by December 2006 with considerations made for [REDACTED]. BWXT stated that the [REDACTED] facility would require approximately a [REDACTED].
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