



**UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**  
REGION II  
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER  
61 FORSYTH STREET, SW, SUITE 23T85  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931

October 17, 2008

Mr. Charles Perkins, Site Manager  
AREVA NP, INC.  
Richland Facility  
2101 Horn Rapids Road  
Richland, Washington 99352

SUBJECT: LICENSEE PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF AREVA NP - RICHLAND,  
DOCKET NUMBER 70-1257

Dear Mr. Perkins:

Managers and staff in our Region II office, the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, and the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response, completed a review of the Richland facility's performance in conducting NRC licensed activities during the period beginning August 13, 2006, and ending August 13, 2008. AREVA's performance was evaluated in five major areas: Safety Operations, Radiological Controls, Facility Support, Safeguards, and Special Topics. This letter and the enclosure provide to you the results of our review, and will be used as a basis for establishing the NRC oversight program for your conduct of licensed activities during the next 12 to 24 months.

AREVA NP - Richland continued to conduct its activities safely and securely during the review period. The previous performance review for your facility identified as an area for improvement the implementation of programs that ensure plant changes are done such that the fire safety program remains fully effective, including fire hazards analyses. The NRC has determined that improvements were made in this area. Our review found that the areas of safety operations, safeguards, radiological controls, facility support, and special topics were adequately implemented and no areas of improvement were identified. Based on your previous performance during this period, the NRC has determined that the core inspection program for Category III fuel fabrication facility will be implemented for the upcoming performance period, and no additional inspection effort will be required in any of the major areas inspected.

The results of our review will be discussed with you at your facility during a meeting open to the public on November 13, 2008. During the meeting, we expect you to discuss your view of your performance in the same major areas as the NRC evaluated.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Questions and comments about NRC's review of AREVA's performance should be directed to Mr. Daniel Rich, who can be reached by telephone at 404-562-4721.

Sincerely,

Michael Layton for */RA/*

Joseph Shea, Director  
Division of Fuel Facility Inspection

Docket No. 70-1257  
License No. SNM-1227

Enclosure: Licensee Performance Review

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cc w/encl: (See page 3)

C. Perkins

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| DATE         | 10/ /2008 | 10/15/2008 | 10/ /2008 | 10/ /2008   | 10/ /2008 | 10/ /2008 | 10/ /2008 |
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## **LICENSEE PERFORMANCE REVIEW FOR AREVA-RICHLAND**

**ASSESSMENT PERIOD: AUGUST 13, 2006 TO AUGUST 13, 2008**

The following is a summary of the performance of Areva-Richland in the conduct of NRC-licensed activities.

### **PERFORMANCE AREA: SAFETY OPERATIONS**

This area is comprised of plant operations and fire protection.

#### **Program Areas Needing Improvement**

- No specific areas needing improvement were identified in Safety Operations.

#### **Recommended NRC inspection Effort in Safety Operations**

- Maintain the core inspection effort.

### **PERFORMANCE AREA: SAFEGUARDS**

This area is comprised of material control and accountability, physical protection and information security.

#### **Program Areas Needing Improvement**

- No specific areas needing improvement were identified in Safeguards.

#### **Recommended NRC inspection Effort in Safeguards**

- Maintain the core inspection effort

### **PERFORMANCE AREA: RADIOLOGICAL CONTROLS**

This area is comprised of radiation protection, environmental protection, waste management, and transportation.

#### **Program Areas Needing Improvement**

- No specific areas needing improvement were identified in Radiological Controls.

#### **Recommended NRC inspection Effort in Radiological Controls**

- Maintain the core inspection effort

## **PERFORMANCE AREA: FACILITY SUPPORT**

This area is comprised of maintenance and surveillance, training, emergency preparedness, management organization and controls, and permanent plant modifications.

### **Program Areas Needing Improvement**

- No specific areas needing improvement were identified in Facility Support.

### **Recommended NRC inspection Effort in Facility Support**

- Maintain the core inspection effort

## **PERFORMANCE AREA: SPECIAL TOPICS**

This area is comprised of safety licensing.

### **Program Areas Needing Improvement**

No specific areas needing improvement were identified in Special Topics – Licensing.