

January 14, 2009

Mr. Robert E. Link, Manager
Environmental, Safety, Health and Licensing
AREVA NP, Inc.
2101 Horn Rapids Road
Richland, WA 99354-5102

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF AREVA NP, INC.'S REQUEST TO POSTPONE INITIATION
OF DECOMMISSIONING FOR TWO FACILITIES AT THE RICHLAND,
WASHINGTON SITE (TAC L32804)

Dear Mr. Link:

On October 13, 2008, AREVA NP, Inc. (AREVA) submitted a request, to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), to delay initiation of decommissioning activities for two facilities located at its Richland, Washington site. The two facilities are the former Lagoon Uranium Recovery/Solids Processing facility and the Fuel Services Building. The NRC staff reviewed AREVA's request and concludes that the submittal is sufficient to conduct a detailed technical review.

Your request has been assigned TAC number L32804. Please reference this number in any future correspondence associated with this request.

Based on projections of current review schedules, we anticipate completing our review by the end of May 2009. This date could change depending on the findings of our technical review, urgent assignments, or other factors. We will promptly communicate any significant changes to this schedule.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me by phone at (301) 492-3111, or via e-mail to Rafael.Rodriguez@nrc.gov

In accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Section 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Sincerely,

/RA/

Rafael L. Rodriguez, Project Manager
Fuel Manufacturing Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
and Safeguards
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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

cc:

Loren J. Maas, Manager
Licensing and Compliance
AREVA NP, Inc.
2101 Horn Rapids Road
Richland, WA 99354-5102

Calvin D. Manning, Manager
Nuclear Criticality Safety
AREVA NP, Inc.
2101 Horn Rapids Road
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