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Our ref: HEM-09-112  
Date: September 22, 2009

Subject: Additional Information Concerning the NRC Pre-Decisional Enforcement Conference (License No. SNM-00033, Docket No. 070-00036)

Dear Sirs:

The following information is being provided to respond to questions raised during Hematite's September 2, 2009 NRC Pre-Decisional Enforcement Conference.

The Attachment provides responses to two questions raised by the NRC staff at the Pre-Decisional Enforcement Conference. The response to the first question concerning training includes additional information describing the experience and qualifications of the new Hematite Training Manager. Also, while WEC does not dispute the problematic issues addressed in the Pre-Decisional Enforcement Conference, WEC also offers, under separate cover, several clarifications concerning certain statements of the associated NRC inspection report.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please telephone Gerard F. Couture, Licensing Manager, at (803) 647-2045

Sincerely,

E. Kurt Hackmann  
Director, Hematite Decommissioning Project

Attachment: Response to Two Questions Raised by NRC at the Pre-Decisional Enforcement Conference

cc: Regional Administrator, NRC Region III  
J. J. Hayes, NRC/FSME/DWMEP/DURLD  
S. A. Reynolds, NRC Region III/DNMS  
J. W. Smetanka, Westinghouse  
W. G. Snell, NRC Region III/DNMS/MCID  
E. J. Gilstrap, MDNR

NMSS01  
FSME

## ATTACHMENT

### 1. Health Physics Technician Training and Qualifications

- A health physics technician did not pass the health physics technician test on January 8, 2009. On January 26, 2009 the issue was identified by Quality Assurance during a scheduled surveillance of training records. The examination cover sheet had stated that a passing grade was 70%, whereas the procedural requirement was 80%.
- Immediate actions
  - The health physics technician was immediately removed from health physics duties and reassigned to project work.
  - Surveys that the health physics technician performed between 1/8/09 and 1/26/09 were resurveyed, which confirmed equivalent results.
- Enhancements have been made with the training department to ensure that an unsatisfactory examination result is identified, and to ensure that a person does not continue to perform duties and responsibilities of a health physics technician without being fully qualified:
  - hired an experienced Training Manager; and
  - enhanced the training program management tools.
- Excerpts from the new Training Manager's resume are provided below:

The training manager has a robust education and experience foundation in radiation safety and nuclear operations. Formal education includes: a B.S. in Mathematics and Technology with an emphasis in Radiation Protection Technology; U.S. Navy Nuclear Propulsion Program; U.S. Navy Engineering Laboratory Technician and Environmental and Waste Management in Business and Industry (State University of New York - Graduate Program). Experience that will contribute to the successful decommissioning of HDP includes: oversight of decommissioning activities associated with Brookhaven Graphite Research Reactor; Building Manager and Work Control Coordinator (Brookhaven Graphite Research Reactor); and Fire and Safety Supervisor assigned to Shoreham Nuclear Power Station.

Experience which is key to improvement in the HDP Training Program includes: development, administration, and maintenance of INPO accredited training courses; planning and coordination of off-site Emergency Response Drill at Beaver Valley Nuclear Power Station; development and administration of Radiological Awareness sessions for the Department of Energy; and development of post accident training at Three Mile Island.

- Enhancements have been made in the health physics programs and procedures:
  - Hematite procedure HDP-HP-PR-102 has been revised to include a formal qualification process for all health physics technicians. This qualification process includes:
    - training modules with written examinations covering health physics fundamentals, project specific health physics information, and practical factors consistent with section 2.6 of the License Application;
    - review of experience and education;
    - documentation of examination, experience and education on a qualification card (the qualification card requirement did not exist in early 2009 when this training discrepancy occurred); and
    - review and approval of the qualification card, examination results and individual's resume by the Training Manager and Radiation Safety Officer prior to assumption of duties as a health physics technician.
- Although not addressed in the inspection report, during the 1/29/09 NRC inspection exit meeting, the NRC discussed the years of experience for qualification of a second health physics technician.
  - Following the exit meeting, all survey work activities performed by the second health physics technician required oversight and co-signature by another health physics technician.
  - This continued until 6/25/09, when the second health physics technician met the experience and new training requirements.

## **2. Quality Assurance Audits and Assessments**

**Who determines Quality Assurance audits, how many were performed and closed out previously versus currently, and how do we measure the effectiveness of these audits?**

- The Quality Manager is responsible for the overall implementation of the Audit Program. The responsibilities include the management, planning and scheduling of Quality Audits and surveillances.
- The Quality Manager evaluates prior year audit results, corrective action issues, regulatory requirements, and establishes the new annual schedule for internal monthly Quality Audits. Additional audits may be added as determined by the functional managers and Project Director throughout the year.
- Audits findings are documented in the corrective action program and tracked through to closure.

- Each year the Quality Manager conducts a self assessment of the Quality Program. As part the self assessment an evaluation of the Audit Program effectiveness is evaluated. This includes an analysis of the number of audits conducted to the audit schedule, the number of quality elements audited, the number of corrective action issue reports and their severity level as to determining the effectiveness of the Audit Program.
- In addition, the project Quality Program elements are independently audited by WEC Quality on an annual basis, to verify the effectiveness of the Hematite program.
- There have been three WEC corporate independent external assessments of the Hematite site Quality Assurance Program in recent years. The 2007 assessment resulted in significant Quality Assurance Program findings, including several related to the audit portion of the program. However, there have been no findings related to the audit portion of the program in the two recent external assessments. Although significant Quality Assurance Program improvements had been made, several suggestions for improvement were noted in the 2008 assessment, including the audit portion. The 2009 assessment resulted in no issues with the audit portion, but included one minor finding and two suggestions for improvement in the overall Quality Assurance Program.
- In 2008, 12 internal audits were scheduled and 15 completed.
- The 2009 Audit Schedule was planned to mirror the 15 internal audits from 2008. Of the 16 program and program element audits planned, 3 have yet to be completed.