

January 11, 2010

MEMORANDUM TO: Gregory Suber, Branch Chief
Low-Level Waste Branch
Environmental Protection
and Performance Assessment Directorate
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

FROM: Maurice Heath, Project Manager **/RA/**
Low-Level Waste Branch
Environmental Protection
and Performance Assessment Directorate
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF PUBLIC MEETING BETWEEN THE U.S.
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION AND WASTE
CONTROL SPECIALISTS ON LOW-LEVEL WASTE BLENDING

On December 15, 2009, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) had a public meeting with Waste Control Specialists. The NRC staff discussed Waste Control Specialists' views on the blending of low-level waste. The meeting summary is an enclosure to this document.

Enclosures:

1. Meeting Summary
2. Attendee List
3. Agenda
4. NRC Presentation
5. Waste Control Specialists Presentation

CONTACT: Maurice Heath, FSME/DWMEP
(301) 415-3137

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OFFICE	DWMEP	DWMEP	DWMEP	DWMEP
NAME	MHeath	AWalker-Smith	GSuber	MHeath
DATE	1/4/10	1/5/10	1/11/10	1/11/10

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

A Summary of Meeting: Meeting between the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Waste Control Specialists on the Blending of Low-Level Waste

DATE: December 14, 2009

PLACE: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Two White Flint North
11545 Rockville Pike, Room T-2B3
Rockville, MD 20852

BACKGROUND:

On September 22, 2009 Waste Control Specialists sent a letter to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regarding low-level waste policies. In this letter Waste Control Specialists (WCS) provided views on a number of low-level radioactive waste (LLRW) topics for consideration by the Commission. On October 30, 2009 the NRC responded to the WCS letter. The practice of blending is not prohibited nor is it explicitly addressed by the NRC regulations. NRC specifically acknowledges in its guidance that blending of homogeneous wastes may be appropriate under certain conditions.

DISCUSSION:

Maurice Heath, of NRC, opened the meeting with a brief introduction to the project and described the protocol of a Category 2 public meeting. The meeting continued with presentations from Larry Camper, of NRC, and WCS. The presentations are attached as part of this meeting summary. The purpose of this meeting was to provide Waste Control Specialists an opportunity to explain their views on the blending of low-level waste.

The presentation from Larry Camper focused on four main topics: (1) the purpose and focus of the meeting; (2) background of the issue (3) current NRC Position on Blending and (4) NRC Chairman's Direction on the issue of blending.

The purpose of the meeting, as stated, was to provide an opportunity for WCS to explain their views on the blending of low-level waste. The focus of this meeting was for NRC to gather views on key issues on the blending of LLW. On October 8, 2009, NRC Chairman Gregory B. Jaczko directed the staff to prepare a vote paper for the Commission to consider issues related to blending of LLRW. The information gathered from this public meeting will assist the NRC staff in preparing the paper for the Commission.

WCS' presentation expressed their position on the blending of low-level waste. During the WCS presentation they stated that they believe NRC is reversing existing policy in allowing Class B and C waste to be blended for the sole purpose of disposal as Class A waste. WCS explained that such changes to well-established policy could seriously undermine WCS' chance to provide a national solution for Class B and C waste disposal. They also stated that the policy change would only provide disposal pathways for a few waste streams and the impact to medical, university and research communities would be detrimental. WCS asserted that the Class B and C waste that cannot be blended may effectively be stranded in perpetuity. WCS explained that they believe that allowing blending would drive the cost of waste disposal to extreme levels.

List of Meeting Attendees

DATE: December 15, 2009

MEETING: NRC Public Meeting with Waste Control Specialists

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Maurice Heath	NRC
Nishka Devaser	NRC
Brad Mason	Studsvik
David McIntosh	Mayer Brown
Joseph DiCamillo	Studsvik
Lewis Johnson	Studsvik
Scott Kirk	WCS
A. C. Ridge	NRC
Steve Garry	NRC
David McIntyre	NRC
Sarah Anderson	Radwaste Monitor
Dan Schultheisz	EPA
Thomas Magette	EnergySolutions
Jim Lieberman	Talisman
Mark Ping	EnergySolutions
Mike Lee	NRC
Larry Camper	NRC
James Shaffner	NRC
Diane D'Arrigo	NIRS
John Greaves	Member of Public

List of Meeting Attendees (via Phone)

DATE: December 15, 2009

MEETING: NRC Public Meeting with Waste Control Specialists

[illegible]