

February 17, 2010

MEMORANDUM TO: Andrea Kock, Chief
Environmental Review 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: James Park, Project Manager */RA/*
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SUBJECT: MEETINGS DURING WEEK OF NOVEMBER 16, 2009, WITH
REPRESENTATIVES FROM NUCLEAR FUEL SERVICES AND
OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

During the week of November 16, 2009, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff and a contractor staff from the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses met with representatives of Nuclear Fuel Services (NFS) and other stakeholders regarding the NRC staff's environmental review of NFS's request to renew its NRC special nuclear material license

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A. Kock

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SNM-124. The purpose of these meetings was to provide NFS and the stakeholders an opportunity to express comments or concerns with NRC's environmental review at an early stage in that review. Enclosed is a summary of each meeting, a list of the participants, and action items arising from the meeting.

Enclosure: As stated

A. Kock

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OFC	DWMEP	DWMEP	FCSS	DWMEP
NAME	JPark	ARiffle	KRamsey	AWalker-Smith
DATE	2/1/10	2/1/10	2/1/10	2/17/10
OFC	DWMEP	DWMEP		
NAME	JPark	ARiffle		
DATE	2/ 17 /10	2/ 17 /10		

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MEETINGS DURING WEEK OF NOVEMBER 16, 2009, WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM
NUCLEAR FUEL SERVICES AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

Town Hall, Erwin, TN – November 17, 2009

Meeting Summary:

The participants discussed Nuclear Fuel Services (NFS's) involvement in and contribution to the Town of Erwin's activities. NFS is involved with the local school system: providing computers; sponsoring an academic achievement award program; and pursuing with the high school an advanced chemistry curriculum that would be helpful for graduates pursuing employment with NFS in the future. NFS also contributed funds (1) to the construction/upkeep of a portion of the Linear Trail (a 6-mile long, paved recreation path paralleling the Nolichucky River) that runs near the NFS facility, and (2) to the upkeep of a portion of the Appalachian Trail on Bear Mountain outside of Erwin. NFS also pays both town and county taxes (property/land taxes) of approximately \$1 million per year.

The participants also discussed future growth issues for the Town of Erwin. Approximately 52% of Unicoi County, in which Erwin is located, is administered by the Federal government, and this affects not only town growth but also the local tax base, as a result. Additionally, the Town of Erwin is working with the State of Tennessee Department of Transportation to have a town bypass put in to allow easier movement in and out of town without having to cross the railroad tracks. The Town of Erwin does have a 5-year plan and is working on a 10-year plan. Among the planned items is the construction of a new civic center in town. Finally, there is some push to bring new businesses into the town and area, but the county is also exploring opportunities for tourism.

Meeting Participants:

James Park, NRC
Kevin Ramsey, NRC
Pete Habighorst, NRC
William "Brushy" Lewis, Mayor, Town of Erwin

Follow-up Items:

Mayor Lewis indicated that he would contact the Town Planning Committee concerning providing copies of the 5-year plan to U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

Unicoi County Offices, Erwin, TN – November 17, 2009

Meeting Summary:

The staff met with the Mayor of Unicoi County. Among the items discussed were: (1) limits on potential growth for the Town of Erwin due to constraints from U.S. Forest Service lands, the highway, and the railroad; (2) county plans to explore tourism opportunities using a grant from

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for Erwin; (4) the purchase of the approximately 10,000 acre Rocky Fork ecological the Appalachian Regional Commission; (3) a new housing development of 75 homes planned conservation area in southern Unicoi County by the State and the Forest Service; (5) issues related to operation of the NFS facility (including environmental protection, tax revenues, and continued openness of NRC and NFS to public scrutiny); and (6) county growth and strategic planning.

Meeting Participants:

James Park, NRC
Kevin Ramsey, NRC
Pete Habighorst, NRC
Gregory Lynch, Mayor, Unicoi County

Follow-up Items:

Mayor Lynch indicated that he would pursue providing copies of the county growth and strategic plans to NRC.

USDA Forest Ranger Station, Unicoi, TN – November 17, 2009

Meeting Summary:

The participants discussed issues related to the Forest Services' management of the Cherokee National Forest (CNF) and the Watauga District of the CNF in which the Town of Erwin lies. Among the issues discussed were: (1) the 2004 update to the Land and Resources Management Plan for the CNF (a copy of which and accompanying Environmental Impact Statement [EIS] was provided to NRC); (2) current uses of the CNF, including hiking on the Appalachian Trail, hunting of local large and small game, and rafting on the Nolichucky River; and (3) local historic sites.

Meeting Participants:

Ashley Riffle, NRC
Jim Durham, CNWRA
Vern Maddux, USDA Forest Service

Follow-up Items:

None.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Erwin National Fish Hatchery, Erwin, TN – November 17, 2009

Meeting Summary:

Mr. Robinette, Hatchery Manager gave a tour of the hatchery, which is located approximately 180 meters (600 feet) upstream of the NFS facility. The hatchery shipped approximately 13.7 million rainbow trout eggs to other areas in the country in 2008 and is fed by springs on the

hatchery site. In 2001, NFS and the hatchery signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to address the impacts of NFS's construction of the Banner Creek culvert. As part of the MOU (which expired in 2006), mitigation was performed at the outfall, which diverted water to a wetland. Since that time, erosion of the mitigative barrier is affecting the hatchery's ability to meet the conditions of its discharge permit. The hatchery recognizes that actions to address the situation are the hatchery's and not NFS's, given the expiration of the MOU.

Meeting Participants:

Ashley Riffle, NRC
Jim Durham, CNWRA
John Robinette, USFWS

Follow-up Items:

None.

Erwin Utilities, Erwin, TN – November 17, 2009

Meeting Summary:

The staff met with the General Manager of Erwin Utilities, which provides water, sewer, and electrical services to the NFS facility. The manager estimated that utility consumption at the NFS site had doubled in the past 10 years, but indicated that the utility was capable of supplying the NFS facility's needs over the next 40 years. Finally, the manager stated that closure of the NFS facility would not only affect the utility's customer base, but also significantly affect local employment.

Meeting Participants:

Ashley Riffle, NRC
Jim Durham, CNWRA
Lee Brown, Erwin Utilities

Follow-up Items:

None.

Sierra Club and Erwin Citizen's Awareness Network, Erwin, TN – November 17, 2009

Meeting Summary:

The staff met with representatives of the Sierra Club and Citizen's Awareness Network (ECAN) at the Erwin town hall. The Sierra Club and ECAN representatives provided the staff with two 3-inch thick binders of information that they believe should be considered in NRC's review of NFS license renewal request (ADAMS accession numbers ML093630722, ML093630723, ML093630724, ML093630726, and ML093630727). The Sierra Club and ECAN representatives went through the provided information during the meeting.

Meeting Participants:

James Park, NRC
Ashley Riffle, NRC
Kevin Ramsey, NRC
Pete Habighorst, NRC
Jim Durham, CNWRA
Linda Modica, Sierra Club
Barbara O'Neal, ECAN
Christine Tipton, ECAN

Follow-up Items:

The staff and CNWRA will review the information provided by the Sierra Club and ECAN for relevance in the staff's environmental and safety reviews.

NFS site tour and meetings, Erwin, TN – November 18-19, 2009

Meeting Summary:

The site tour was conducted by NFS personnel and included:

- Observation of air, water, and waste sampling stations or outfall;
- The Erwin town sewage treatment facility;
- The Blended Low Enriched Uranium Complex facilities next to the main site;
- The fuel fabrication facilities in the main site;
- The former waste burial site, currently under remediation; and
- The tent covering the site of the former mixed oxide facility including preparations for excavating contaminated soil and debris.

Following the site tour, the staff met with NFS personnel. Among the topics discussed concerning the staff's environment review were:

- Plans for changes in operations during the requested 40-year license renewal period;
- Planned maintenance activities during the requested 40-year license renewal period;
- Required water sampling prior to transfer to the waste water treatment facility;
- Monitoring action levels established in guidance;
- Monitoring action levels that would warrant investigation and possible further action;
- Most recent data on air and water emissions;
- Inputs to offsite dose calculations;
- Discharge permits;
- Monitoring reports; and
- Status of identified groundwater contaminant plumes.

Meeting Participants:

James Park, NRC
Ashley Riffle, NRC
Kevin Ramsey, NRC
Jim Durham, CNWRA
Marie Moore, NFS
Joyce Griffith, NFS
Charlynn Buchanan, NFS
Becky Webb, NFS
Jason Faddis, NFS
Dallas Gardner, NFS

Follow-up Items:

The staff requested NFS assistance in locating past submittals of groundwater characterization and modeling reports, copies of current air and water discharge permits with the relevant issuing agencies, and a copy of an environmental indicator letter from the State of Tennessee.

Town of Unicoi Town Hall, Unicoi, TN – November 18, 2009

Meeting Summary:

The staff met with Town of Unicoi officials. Among the items discussed were: (1) the town's growth over the past 10 years and the influence of nearby Johnson City on that growth; (2) the town's current tax code and likely changes should growth continue; (3) existing limits on the town's potential geographical growth; (4) the identified need for an alternate exit route from the town given the proximity of the railroad; and (5) the lack of available sites to attract industry into Unicoi County.

Meeting Participants:

James Park, NRC
Ashley Riffle, NRC
Kevin Ramsey, NRC
Jim Durham, CNWRA
Johnny Lynch, Mayor, Town of Unicoi
Larry Rea, Recorder, Town of Unicoi

Follow-up Items:

Mayor Lynch committed to looking into providing a copy of a State report concerning available industrial sites in local counties, including Unicoi County.