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Sent: Wednesday, March 31, 2010 3:34 PM
To: Staab, Christopher
Cc: Shuler, James; Bennett, Marvin; Whitworth, Julia; Rasmussen, Richard; Zarling, John; Cuthbertson, Abigail
Subject: S300 Cert 9329
Attachments: 2010 Übersetzung BfS Reiche.pdf

Dear Mr. Staab, as requested today via phone conversation, here is some additional history and information related to our recent request to amend the S300 CoC:

Due to a requested recovery of unwanted sources in Germany, our S300 certificate and Safety Analysis Report (SAR, Rev 3) were submitted to the German Competent Authority for review and validation by the shipping company in 2009. In the course of their review, Germany identified some questions related the criticality modeling presented in Chp 6. Specifically, they were concerned about presence of tantalum source cladding and the physical dimensions of the configuration model used in the criticality assessment.

Prior to this, our staff had already been working on preparing an S300 amendment for other operational reasons (e.g., to add non-neutron plutonium content, to add other light-element target material besides beryllium for neutron sources, etc.). Once the German Competent Authority concerns were raised to DOT/NRC and then to DOE, we were asked to stop S300 shipments until the questions were resolved.

Once the questions were identified, changes to the SAR amendment were initiated to directly address German concerns alongside the other previously planned changes. We have kept the German Comp Authority apprised of our actions related to Chp 6 by first sending a new draft criticality analysis, later a pre-final, and then a final version of our proposed changes to the criticality model and the subsequent results and changes to the CSI values. These were provided to Dr. Reiche at BfS (Bundesamt für Strahlenschutz -- the German Competent Authority). His response to the revised criticality assessment is attached in German; and includes a translation provided by our colleagues in Germany.

You can see in the attached PDF document (which we received via email 2/14/10) that the German Competent Authority generally agrees with the method chosen for re-evaluation of the criticality, but that they would like to wait for US certification.

The shipment of unwanted sources from Germany and other European nations is scheduled to occur by vessel. The exact date/time/location of the vessel loading and departure are not available for public dissemination. Generally speaking, the vessel will depart Europe in Sept-2010. Upon arrival, the unwanted sources will be transported to and securely stored at a DOE facility until disposal arrangements are made.

It is unclear how long the Germans and other involved competent authorities will need to review and validate the new US certification. So, since the vessel is departing in September, we hope that the NRC CoC (and DOT CAC) for the S300 can be issued by mid-July 2010. This will allow ample time for the German and other competent authorities time to review and validate the certificate prior to the shipping date.

If you need any other information or have additional questions, please let me know.

Best regards,
Justin

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