

June 7, 2010

MEMORANDUM TO: Bruce Watson, Branch Chief
Reactor Decommissioning Branch
Decommissioning and Uranium Recovery Licensing Directorate
Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental
Management Programs

FROM: Dennis Morey, Acting Branch Chief */RA/*
Fuel Cycle Transportation Security Branch
Division of Security Policy
Nuclear Security and Incident Response

SUBJECT: GENERAL ATOMICS REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF
CHANGES TO THEIR ON SITE SECURITY OF
SPENT FUEL UNDER TITLE 10 OF THE
CODE OF THE FEDERAL REGULATIONS 50.54P

By letter dated February 1, 2010, General Atomics (GA) requested approval of their revised security plan titled, Fixed Site and Transportation Plan for the Protection of Special Nuclear Material at the General Atomics Reactors Facility, dated December 2009. GA previously operated a research and test reactor, which is now shut down. The fuel that was used in the reactor is stored in a spent fuel pool on site.

For many years, this fuel was protected by a substantial physical barrier and electronic security measures. Because the spent fuel will be removed in the future, it was necessary to move the existing physical barrier and install a new barrier. In addition to the new barrier, the site instituted revised surveillance procedures and upgraded the electronic security measures. Finally, the new barrier, while different than the original barrier, has several safeguards in place making its removal without detection extremely difficult. The details of the new security measures are safeguards information and are contained in the revised security plan.

The Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR) staff reviewed the new security plan, submitted thirty one (31) questions to the licensee for clarification and visited the site with staff from Region II. The licensee submitted the additional information requested and the site visit helped to clarify any other concerns.

When comparing the older security measures with the new changes, NSIR staff found that there was no reduction in the effectiveness of security at the site and recommends the approval of these measures as requested under the provisions of 10 CFR 50.54 (p).

CONTACT: Ed Johannemann
(301) 415-8147

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