

May 4, 2011

Mr. Gary E. Williams, Director
National Health Physics Program (115 HP/NLR)
Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
2200 Fort Roots Drive
North Little Rock, AR 72114

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF RESULTS OF INITIAL VOC (VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS)
& RADIOLOGICAL SUBSURFACE INVESTIGATION AT GREATER
LOS ANGELES HEALTHCARE SYSTEM'S FORMER BURIAL SITE

Dear Mr. Williams:

By letter dated October 22, 2008, (ML083020251), the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) requested the NRC review and approve the work plan entitled "Initial VOC (Volatile Organic Compounds) & Radiological Subsurface Investigation Work Plan." The purpose of the Work Plan (WP) was to evaluate the potential health risks from the former burial site located at the Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System. The evaluation was not initiated due to any NRC regulatory requirement or concern. The Letter of Understanding (LOU) between the NRC and the DVA includes a condition (Item 25) which states that "the DVA will seek NRC approval for any change of status of this burial site." The DVA submitted the WP to the NRC for review and approval before the WP was implemented. The NRC notified the DVA that the WP had been approved in letter dated June 12, 2009 (ML091800505) and Material License No. 03-23853-01 VA was amended (Amendment No. 07) to include the WP. In our June 12 letter, we requested that the DVA provide the NRC with a copy of the final report regarding the results of the subsurface investigation.

The DVA submitted a letter dated March 2, 2011, (ML110630082), which included a DVD containing a copy of the final report of the Phase II characterization study for the former burial site. We reviewed the following documents from the DVD:

Greater Los Angeles Veterans Administration Hospital (GLAVA) Radiological Study Results, Prepared for Allwest Geosciences Inc., Prepared by Pika International, Inc., April 14, 2010;

Greater Los Angeles Veterans Administration Hospital (GLAVA) Additional Groundwater Radiological Analysis Report, Prepared for Allwest Geosciences Inc., Prepared by Pika International, Inc., October 26, 2010; and

Initial VOC & Radiological Subsurface Investigation Report, VA GLA Healthcare System, Volume 1, Project No. 02-3454EI-3, December 10, 2010, and Volume 3, Appendix 9, Radiological Analytical Results.

As part of the initial review and approval of the WP, the NRC reviewed previous NRC investigations of the burial site and noted that the NRC had concluded there were no

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radiological health and safety concerns. It is also our understanding that the DVA intends to maintain ownership and control of this property, and has not requested the unrestricted release of the property. Our review therefore focused on whether any new radiological health and safety concerns had been identified as a result of the evaluation. Based on our review we identified no regulatory or health and safety concerns regarding the radiological results of the investigation. We have no further questions at this time.

A copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). The NRC's document system is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Please feel free to contact me at (630) 829-9854 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Kevin Null, Senior Licensing Reviewer
Materials Licensing Branch
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

Docket No. 030-34325
License No. 03-23853-01VA
Permit No. 04-00181-04

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Kevin Null, Senior Licensing Reviewer
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