

May 19, 2011

CLOSED MEETING NOTICE

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

FROM: Mathews George, Project Manager **/RA by N. Devaser for/**
Low-Level Waste Branch
Environment Protection
and Performance Assessment Directorate
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

SUBJECT: CLOSED MEETING BETWEEN U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY
COMMISSION AND U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RE:
SAVANNAH RIVER SITE, SALTSTONE FACILITY

DATE & TIME: Thursday, June 2, 2011; 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

LOCATION: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Two White Flint Building
11545 Rockville Pike,
Rockville, Maryland

PURPOSE: An interagency meeting on technical topics relating to the Savannah
River Site Saltstone Facility Performance Assessment

CATEGORY: Nonpublic (Closed) Meeting: This meeting will be closed to the public in
accordance with Management Directive 3.5, for the reasons provided in
the attached statement.

PARTICIPANTS: U.S. Department of Energy
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

G. Suber

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Docket: PROJ0734

NRC Attendees: Larry Camper, Andrew Persinko, Gregory Suber, Christopher McKenney

Contact: M. George; (301) 415-7065; Mathews.George@nrc.gov

Enclosures:

1. Justification for Closing the Meeting
2. Meeting Agenda

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OFC	DWMEP	DWMEP	DWMEP	DWMEP
NAME	MGeorge	NDevaser	CMcKenney	NDevaser for MGeorge
DATE	5/19/11	5/19/11	5/19/11	5/19/11

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Closed Meeting Justification for the Meeting to Discuss Status of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Monitoring Activities at the U.S. Department of Energy Saltstone Disposal Facility at the Savannah River Site

On Thursday June 2, 2011 the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is planning to conduct a closed Government-to-Government meeting with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). COMNJD-06-006 recognized that while the ultimate goal was to create a process that is "as open to public and interested stakeholder as possible" there would be circumstances under which some technical discussions should occur in a 'non-public venue' and the "staff should be provided the flexibility to hold closed government-to-government meetings, as appropriate and pursuant to [Management Directive] 3.5."

The purpose of this meeting is to facilitate a general information exchange regarding the status and the general trend of the disposal actions for the Saltstone Project. The NRC will provide high-level managers at the DOE a description of some of the primary issues the NRC staff has identified both through its monitoring responsibilities under Section 3116 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (NDAA) and during its review of the 2009 Saltstone Performance Assessment (PA). The NRC's review of the 2009 PA, being performed in accordance with NRC's monitoring responsibilities at the Saltstone Facility, is to ensure that during DOE's disposal actions at the Saltstone Facility are being performed in compliance with the performance objectives of 10 CFR Part 61, Subpart C. Some materials used for this meeting will be marked as predecisional and not made publicly available. However, a public meeting summary will be issued which will include a basic summary of the meeting and any non-preliminary and non-predecisional material discussed.

Background:

The DOE began preparing an update to the 2009 PA in 2007 and provided the document to the NRC upon its completion in November 2009 (ML101590008). The NRC began its review immediately and submitted its first Request for Additional Information (RAI) on March 31, 2010 (ML100820097). An RAI is a list of questions and/or comments the NRC staff must have answered by DOE before completing its review. The DOE provided responses to this RAI on July 22, 2010 (ML102090664). Upon review, the NRC staff found some of these responses to not fully address the questions and explained some of these concerns in an open teleconference with DOE on September 2, 2010 (ML102980289) and again in a closed meeting with DOE management on November 22, 2010 (ML103270483). Following the November 22 meeting, the NRC sent a second RAI to the DOE on December 15, 2010 (ML103400571) describing these concerns in detail. The NRC and DOE met again in a public forum on January 27, 2011 (ML110341424) in Aiken, SC, to describe the NRC's concerns and the DOE's positions regarding some of these concerns. Following some additional research by DOE and their contractors, DOE provided a partial response to the second RAI on April 21, 2011 (ML111180141). On April 27, 2011, the NRC and DOE engaged in an open discussion in Aiken, SC regarding (1) DOE's partial response, (2) DOE's path forward for the remaining RAIs, and any feedback the NRC could provide regarding proposed or final responses.

Meeting Details:

This discussion between NRC and DOE is intended to serve as a follow-up to the November 22, 2010 closed meeting, the January 27, 2011 open meeting, and the April 27, 2011 open meeting.

The information discussed and presented at this meeting will be preliminary and pre-decisional. The discussions will not include conclusions or interpretation of any specific performance objectives as these will occur in future monitoring activities available to the public. Additionally, the information and discussions between the agencies could be taken out of context and cause confusion if the meeting were held in a public forum, particularly given the conceptual nature of the topics and preliminary and pre-decisional status of the analyses. Based upon these considerations, the meeting will be closed to the public; however, a summary of the meeting will be drafted afterwards and will be available to the Public.

**Meeting with DOE to Discuss Status of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Monitoring Activities at the Saltstone Disposal Facility at the Savannah River Site**

PROPOSED AGENDA

Session Time Topic

10:00 a.m.	Welcome and Introductions
10:10 a.m.	Background of Recent Activities
10:30 a.m.	Basis for RAIs
11:00 a.m.	Recent Discussions on DOE's Proposed and Final RAI Responses
11:45 a.m.	Questions and Answers
12:00 p.m.	Adjourn