



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
612 EAST LAMAR BLVD, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4125

May 27, 2011

MEMORANDUM TO: D. Blair Spitzberg, Ph. D., Chief */RA/*
Repository and Spent Fuel Safety Branch (RSFS)
Division of Nuclear Material Safety, Region IV

FROM: Gerald A. Schlapper, Ph. D.
Radiation Specialist, RSFS
Division of Nuclear Material Safety, Region IV

SUBJECT: Audit of Op Plan and Non-Op Plan Metrics – Repository and
Spent Fuel Safety Branch Activity 1st and 2nd Quarter FY2010

During the week of May 9, 2011, I conducted an internal audit of DNMS Operating Plan metrics applicable to the Repository and Spent Fuel Safety Branch for the period from the 1st quarter through the 2nd quarter, FY2010. The findings are attached. This assessment was conducted based on information accessible through ADAMS. No findings requiring corrective action were identified.

cc:
C. Cain, DNMS

D. Blair Spitzberg

**AUDIT OF OP PLAN AND NON-OP PLAN METRICS
REPOSITORY AND SPENT FUEL SAFETY BRANCH ACTIVITY
1ST AND 2ND QUARTER FY2010**

At the request of the Branch Chief, an audit was conducted of the activity of the Repository and Spent Fuel Safety Branch (RSFSB) during the first and second quarters of 2010. The audit was primarily based on information contained in the RIV Repository, Spent Fuel Safety and Decommissioning Branch Summary Activities Report for the appropriate quarters and verified by access to selected documents via ADAMS.

Summary of Activities Performed

There were no Team inspections conducted during the first and second quarters of 2010 and thus no Team inspection reports were issued. There were four non-team inspection reports written in the first quarter and seven inspection reports written in the second quarter. All inspection reports met timeliness goals for non-team reports of issuance within 30 days after exiting with the licensee. While not all inspections resulted in findings, where findings were made they were justified and clearly documented. RSFS inspectors consistently followed up on findings from previous inspections and reviewed effectiveness of corrective actions which provided confidence that the licensee had determined and addressed the root causes of these violations. Review of assessment of the significance of findings showed that appropriate regulatory action was taken, especially in the case of findings of very low safety significance made issuance of a non-cited violation appropriate (**SAF12**). All of the scheduled inspections for the first and second quarter were accomplished during the scheduled time (**OP02a**). The branch chief/supervisor exceeded the requirement for accompaniments of 100% of the inspector staff during the FY within the second quarter. There were no public meetings that occurred within the first and second quarters and thus timeliness criteria did not apply (**CS-IM-02**).

Independent Spent Fuel Installations (**SAF14**)

The RSFS Branch maintains an inspection planning and tracking system to ensure implementation of inspection frequency as required by Manual Chapter 2690. There were no inspections due or scheduled for the first quarter of FY 2010. The three routine operational ISFSI inspections at Humboldt Bay, Palo Verde, and Rancho Seco scheduled for the second quarter were completed in a timely manner (**OP02a**).

High Level Waste

During the first and second quarters of FY 2010, RSFS continued to provide support to HLWRS Yucca Mountain activities with a focus on Department of Energy responses to NRC request for additional information during the first quarter and the Departments activities related to possible termination of the Yucca Mountain Project in the second quarter. Support of Yucca Mountain activities at the Las Vegas Office included observing meetings of the corrective action program, participating in periodic status meetings with NRC Headquarters and reviewing relevant condition reports. During the first quarter, RSFS personnel participated in two Safety Evaluation Report, Volume 2, integration meetings conducted at CNWRA, San Antonio, Texas.

D. Blair Spitzberg

Reactor Decommissioning (SAF17)

In the area of reactor decommissioning all planned inspections were completed in the first and second quarters of FY 2010. Schedules were adjusted to focus resources on risk significant dismantlement activities. As stipulated in Manual Chapter 2561, core inspection procedures are required for each decommissioning reactor site during the year. RSFS completed required inspections and compliance with these requirements is ensured by the RSFS inspection planning and tracking system.

Comprehensive Decommissioning Program (SAF18)

RSFS continued to plan and implement inspection assignments at complex and non-complex decommissioning sites in accordance with Manual Chapters 2602 and 2800. Inspections are scheduled and tracked using a Master Inspection Plan. All inspections and reports were accurate and were completed and submitted in a timely manner **(OP02a)**.

Fuel Cycle Facilities

Region IV is budgeted to conduct fuel cycle inspections at two facilities, GE-Hitachi, Vallecitos, and General Atomics. During the first and second quarters no inspections were conducted at either facility. During the first quarter, one inspection report related to an inspection at GE-Hitachi, was conducted during the last month of FY 2009, was issued in a timely manner **(OP02a)**.

D. Blair Spitzberg

SUNSI Review Completed: Yes No ADA MS: Yes No Initials: GS
Publicly Available Nonpublicly Available Sensitive Nonsensitive

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