

September 14, 2011

MEMORANDUM TO: File

FROM: Donald Lowman, Project Manager **/RA/**
Low-Level Waste Branch
Environmental Protection and Performance
Assessment Directorate
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

SUBJECT: MEETING MINUTES FOR CONFERENCE CALL WITH STUDSVIK
AND ENERGYSOLUTIONS

On February 15, 2011 U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff participated in a conference call with representatives from Studsvik and EnergySolutions. The purpose of the call was to gain a better understanding of the joint venture (Semprasafe LLC) between Studsvik and EnergySolutions to blend and process low-level waste at Studsvik for eventual disposal at Clive. Staff has several actions associated with blending and wanted to determine if the new process could impact any of the on-going actions. No decisions or commitments were made during this call.

A summary of the discussions is found in the enclosure along with a list of participants.

Enclosure:
Meeting Summary

CONTACT: D. Lowman, FSME/DWMEP
(301) 415-5452

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DATE	08/31/11	08/31/11	09/9/11	09/14/11

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SUMMARY OF CALL WITH STUDSVIK/ENERGYSOLUTIONS

WHAT: Conference call between U.S. Nuclear Regulatory (NRC) and personnel from Studsvik and EnergySolutions (ES).

WHEN: February 15, 2011

PURPOSE: To better understand the joint venture of Studsvik and EnergySolutions to blend low-level waste (LLW) and process it at Studsvik for eventual disposal at Clive. Information gained from the call will be used to determine whether and how our work to publish interim guidance and to revise the Concentration Averaging Branch Technical Position might be affected by this proposal.

WHO:

NRC	Studsvik/ES
Chris Grossman	Tom Magette
Maurice Heath	Joe DiCamillo
Jim Kennedy	Lloyd Solomon
Stephen Poy	Dan Shrum
Steve Lemont	
Don Lowman	
Christianne Ridge	
Jim Shaffner	
Dennis Sollenberger	
Gregory Suber	
Duncan White	

SUMMARY

- ResinSolutions, the original ES blending process proposal, was to merely blend the resins to Class A concentrations and dewater them in a liner for disposal at their Clive, Utah site.
- With Studsvik/ES Semprasafe, they hope to eventually process all industry resins. ES and Studsvik stated that Semprasafe is nothing different than what Studsvik has been doing for years at their facility. There is no new equipment to be installed, the procedures for processing are the same, and they believe that no amendment is needed to their existing license. THOR is a thermal process for treating resins that volatilizes water and pyrolyzes organic materials. It generates a clay-like waste form containing metals and is currently being used not only in Erwin, Tennessee but at the U.S. Department of Energy facilities.
- Semprasafe will only be used for ion exchange resins.

Enclosure

- The Northwest compact has been contacted regarding Studsvik/ES's plans. The compact has a concern with waste attribution, but the companies are addressing the concern.
- Waste from Energy Northwest's Columbia nuclear plant will have to be processed separately and buried at the U.S Ecology due to compact restrictions.
- ES recently sent a document to the Utah Radiation Control Board detailing why blended LLW could be buried at Clive under the current license. Utah will use a consultant to review the document.
- During the phone call, representatives from Studsvik indicated that the THOR process can be operated to achieve a range of volume reductions. Waste reductions of approximately 5:1 were said to be common; greater reductions were said to be possible. This volume reduction was said to be achieved largely by volatilizing organic matter and water. For the purposes of Semprasafe, the process was said to be managed to create waste of roughly the same volume as the inputs (i.e., no volume reduction). NRC stated we have further questions on the final waste form but would present them at another time either in email or on the phone.