

August 26, 2011
REL:11:039



U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards
11555 Rockville Pike
One White Flint North
Rockville, MD 20852

Gentlemen:

Subject: Response to Notice of Violation (70-1257/2011003-001)

References: Letter, Marvin D. Sykes to D. Grandemange, "Notice of Violation and NRC Integrated Inspection Report No. 070-1257/2011-003", July 29, 2011

Attached is AREVA NP's (AREVA's) response to the violation described in the referenced letter.

If you have questions or require further information, please contact me at 509-375-8409 or C. D. Manning of my staff at 509-375-8237.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert E. Link'.

R. E. Link, Manager
Environmental, Health, Safety, & Licensing

JE07

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/mah

Reply to Notice of Violation
NRC Inspection Report 70-1257 / 2011-003; AREVA NP Inc.

Violation VIO 70-1257/2011003-01

The violation as stated in the referenced Notice of Violation (NOV) is as follows:

Safety Condition No. S-1 of Special Nuclear Material (SNM) License No.: SNM-1227 requires that material be used in accordance with the statements, representations, and conditions in the license application dated October 24, 2006, and supplements dated: December 13, 2006 (License Application and RAI Responses); December 10, 2008 (Revised License Renewal Application); e-mail from R.E. Link titled: "Compliance Plan," dated March 5, 2009; June 12, 2008, August 22, 2008, June 5, 2009, July 13, 2009, November 11, 2009, December 4, 2009, February 4, 2010, e-mail and attachment submitted by C.D. Manning on April 16, 2010, April 28, 2010, and July 1, 2010.

Section 11.3.2, Training and Qualification for Positions/Activities Impacting [IROFS] Items Relied on for Safety, of Revised License Renewal Application, dated December 10, 2008, states, in part, that "Employees assigned to positions/activities involving licensed materials shall be appropriately qualified and trained to conduct their job duties in a way that does not adversely impact safety and in particular the availability and reliability of measures designated as IROFS in the ISA Summary. Trainee understanding and command of learning objectives shall be evaluated."

Contrary to the above, from March 2010 through April 28, 2011, the licensee failed to ensure that three employees assigned to positions and activities involving licensed materials were appropriately qualified and trained so as to conduct their job duties in a way that did not adversely impact safety. Specifically, the inspectors identified three employees independently operating the 45 gallon drum to 55 gallon drum transfer and storage workstation in the Blended Low-Enriched Uranium area without having completed the initial qualification evaluation for the station.

This is a Severity Level IV violation

Reason for the Violation

The reason for the violation is that the individuals who managed and supervised the three individuals mentioned in the NOV failed to ensure that they were assigned the appropriate training curricula for their assigned tasks. They failed to assign the appropriate curricula primarily due to inadequate change management when several of the Blended Low-Enriched Uranium (BLEU) processes were transferred from the Ceramic product center (PC) to the Uranium Conversion and Recovery (UCAR) PC.

They were unaware of the different qualification requirements for the transferred operations because they were not familiar with the workstation boundaries of the various qualifications established for this area. This resulted in several key management/supervisory personnel erroneously assuming that the curricula for the 45 gallon drum to 55 gallon drum transfer and storage workstation in the Blended Low-Enriched Uranium area were included in the BLEU Powder Prep qualifications.

It is noted that the NRC inspectors determined that the administrative IROFS associated with this workstation were not degraded at any time while the unqualified operators worked independently at the 45 gallon drum to 55 gallon drum transfer and storage workstation.

Corrective Actions Taken

A number of actions were taken in direct response to this plant condition, as follows:

1. The condition was entered into AREVA's corrective action program (CR 2011-3213 and Child CRs 2011-3596 and 2011-3674).
2. A Training Specialist and On the Job Training Instructor (OJTI) qualified the three UCAR BLEU operators to "BLEU Powder Transfer 45 to 55-gallon drums-WKS" Curricula. (Completed 4/29/11)
3. AREVA commissioned an Apparent Cause Analysis (ACA) to evaluate the cause of this plant condition.

Actions to Avoid Future Violations

In addition to the actions listed above that have already been taken, the following actions are also expected to prevent a repeat of this condition:

1. Training Specialist to perform Job-Task Analysis of BLEU UCAR workstations to determine what tasks, procedures, etc., are the same and can be merged. Redevelop qualifications based on this analysis and procedures revisions. ECD:9/16/2011.
2. UCAR Manager to coordinate assignment and completion of BLEU Criticality Key Custodian-WKS by the operators who perform these functions. ECD:9/07/2011.
3. UCAR Manager to coordinate assignment and completion of BLEU Lube and Tumbling-WKS curricula by the operators who perform these functions. ECD 9/15/2011(Action is complete but the required EHS&L verification to close this action is still pending)
4. Document Owner, working with HRR Site Manager, establish and communicate expectations for use of Change Management Plan Procedure, 1703-78, particularly Appendix 1, checklist of Major Change Control Activity Screening for interdepartmental process changes. ECD:9/30/2011.
5. Training Department to develop and implement Training Process Overview, Roles and Responsibilities, and Expectations training (eLearning) to reinforce compliance with qualification requirements for all employees. ECD:12/16/2011.)
6. Training Department to routinely provide catalog/list of manufacturing curricula to Operations Management that includes qualification identification and title, management owner, training point-of-contact, curricula description explaining relationship to other curricula, if applicable, and definition of workstation boundaries. ECD:12/16/2011.
7. Training Manager to reinforce and continue to require monthly PC Manager and Training POC meetings (started Fall of 2010), including use of a structured agenda to provide better communications and opportunities to identify training needs and inadequacies. ECD:11/18/2011.
8. Training Department to conduct On-the-Job Instructor Training for all employees that conduct OJT. ECD:7/31/2012.

The actions listed above are expected to prevent a repeat of this condition:

Date of Full Compliance

AREVA believes that it is in full compliance with the subject license condition.