

Weber, Michael

EDD **From:** Weber, Michael / EDO
Sent: Friday, December 17, 2010 4:36 PM
To: Sheron, Brian
Subject: RESPONSE - Periodic with Commissioner Svinicki

Thanks, Brian. Enjoy your weekend!

RES **From:** Sheron, Brian
Sent: Friday, December 17, 2010 4:17 PM
To: Borchardt, Bill; Weber, Michael; Virgilio, Martin; Ash, Darren; Leeds, Eric; Wiggins, Jim; Johnson, Michael; Haney, Catherine; Miller, Charles; Dean, Bill; Reyes, Luis; Satorius, Mark; Collins, Elmo; Howard, Patrick; Boyce, Thomas (OIS); McCrary, Cheryl; Zimmerman, Roy; Greene, Kathryn
Subject: Periodic with Commissioner Svinicki

On Thursday, December 16th, I had a periodic with Commissioner Svinicki.

She asked if there was anything new regarding either SOARCA or the Cancer Study. I said that there was nothing new. The National Academies was finishing up their committee selection, and would likely start on phase 1 of the Cancer Study in January.

She asked what problems we (RES) would have if SMRs became a reality. I said that for the light-water based SMRs, like NuScale, I did not see much of an impact because we understand the technology and our codes should be readily applicable to those designs. I said that if non-LWR SMRs were to come in, it would be a much bigger impact because we are not doing much work in that area, with the exception of NGNP.

I briefed her on the issues with the French research reactor (CABRI), and that we (RES) were getting a lot of pressure from IRSN to extend our cooperative agreement through the NEA and support an augmented testing program of an additional 5 tests that would run the program out to about 2017. IRSN was having significant cost overruns on the seismic upgrades being done to the reactor, and their Ministry was challenging them about the wisdom of completing the seismic upgrades (estimated to cost 300M Euros) versus just shutting the facility down, since it only had an identified mission of 5 more tests. I said that the cost of the augmented program would be about 30M Euros, and our share would be about 5M Euros over a 4-5 year period. I pointed out that the reactor can only do pulse type experiments (i.e., reactivity insertion events) and we did not have a big need for these. I said that IRSN wants to come to the US the week before the RIC and make a technical presentation on their proposed augmented program.

I mentioned that NEA was sponsoring a one-day "Long Term Operations" International Forum on June 8, 2011, between the CNRA and CSNI meetings being held that week, and that I understood the Chairman had agreed to speak at the Forum. I also said that IAEA approached us and asked if the U.S. would sponsor a Long term Operation Conference in the U.S. in 2012. I said that we have tentatively agreed, that our share of the cost would be on the order of \$500K and that DOE was going to be a co-sponsor and financially contribute as well.

T/12