



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
1600 EAST LAMAR BOULEVARD
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4511

August 14, 2013

Ms. Chere D. Morgan, Director
Radiological Control
Idaho National Laboratory
2525 North Fremont Avenue
Idaho Falls, ID 83415

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY PRIME CONTRACTOR EXEMPTION UNDER
10 CFR 30.12

Dear Ms. Morgan:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) received a request from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Idaho National Laboratory (INL), to conduct training in North Bend, Washington, from August 19-23, 2013, using sealed sources that are owned and controlled by INL. This training will be provided with the assistance of Battelle Energy Alliance, LLC (Battelle), a prime contractor for the DOE INL. The training was described as joint training and field exercises between Idaho National Laboratory, Sandia National Laboratory, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Seattle Police Department, and other local law enforcement bomb squads on package interrogation techniques.

The NRC regulations provide an exemption in Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 30.12 from the requirement to possess an NRC license to any prime contractor of the DOE at a government owned or controlled site. However, if the prime contractor or subcontractor is performing work for the DOE at another location which is not a government owned or controlled site, then the Commission needs to determine whether the exemption is authorized by law and whether, under the terms of the contract, there is adequate assurance that the work thereunder can be accomplished without undue risk to the public health and safety.

In this particular case, the DOE INL has requested to conduct work activities in the State of Washington, which is an Agreement State. Under a Commission Policy Statement (46 FR 7540, January 23, 1981), Agreement States may issue case-by-case exemptions only upon a joint determination by the State and the NRC that the necessary findings have been made; hence, the requirement in Washington's regulation that the determination of the grant of a specific exemption be made jointly with the NRC.

The NRC has reviewed the salient parts of Battelle's prime management and operating contract with the DOE INL. The review determined that the exemption under 10 CFR 30.12 is authorized by law. Additionally, the procedures and commitments made by the DOE INL for conducting work activities in the State of Washington were reviewed. Based on this review,

the NRC and the State of Washington have determined that there is adequate assurance that the activity can be accomplished without undue risk to public health and safety. Therefore, the exemption under 10 CFR 30.12 is authorized by law.

If there are any questions or comments concerning this review, please contact Mr. Gerald A. Schlapper, Health Physicist, at 817-200-1273 or the undersigned at 817-200-1106.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Anton Vogel, Director
Division Nuclear Materials Safety

cc: Mr. David Jansen, P. E., LEED AP Director
Washington State Department of Health,
Division of Environmental Public Health
Office of Radiation Protection
P. O. Box 47280
Olympia, WA 98504-7820

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ADAMS	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SUNSI Review Complete	Reviewer Initials: GAS
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