



**NUCLEAR FUEL SERVICES, INC.**  
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CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

21G-15-0047  
GOV-01-55-04  
ACF-15-0101  
March 31, 2015

Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety & Safeguards  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
ATTN: Document Control Desk  
Washington, DC 20555-001

REFERENCES:      1) Docket No. 70-143; SNM License 124  
                         2) Letter from Richard J. Freudenberger to the NRC, BLEU Facility  
                              Decommissioning and Decontamination Postponement Request  
                              (21G-14-0141) dated October 10, 2014  
                         3) Letter from the NRC to Richard J. Freudenberger, Nuclear Fuel  
                              Services, Inc., Request for Additional Information Concerning  
                              Postponement of Decommissioning (TAC L33350), Dated March 2,  
                              2015

SUBJECT:            **Response to Request for Additional Information Concerning  
                              Postponement of Decommissioning and Decontamination of the  
                              BLEU Facility**

As requested in Reference 3, Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc. (NFS) hereby submits its response to your request for additional information concerning the decommissioning and decontamination of the Blended Low Enrichment Uranium (BLEU) Facility (Reference 2).

If you have any questions on this request, please contact me, or Mr. Randy Shackelford, Nuclear Safety and Licensing Manager, at (423) 743-2504. Please reference our unique document identification number (21G-15-0047) in any correspondence concerning this letter.

Sincerely

**NUCLEAR FUEL SERVICES, INC.**

Richard J. Freudenberger  
Safety and Safeguards Director

ATS/pdj

Attachment:      Response to Request for Additional Information Concerning Postponement of  
                              Decommissioning and Decontamination of the BLEU Facility

KMSSO1

Copy:

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**Attachment**

**Response to Request for Additional Information Concerning Postponement of  
Decommissioning and Decontamination of the BLEU Facility**

**(3 Pages to Follow)**

**Response to Request for Additional Information Concerning Postponement of  
Decommissioning and Decontamination of the BLEU Facility**

**Request #1:**

**You request that decommissioning be postponed until January 1, 2018. It is unclear why such a long period of time is needed to complete negotiations with AREVA, Inc. to acquire a portion of the BLEU facility for future use. Explain why you need so much time. This information is needed to make the finding required by Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Paragraph 70.38(f) that the relief is not detrimental to public health and safety and is otherwise in the public interest.**

**NFS Response:**

Following further assessment, NFS has determined that the existing structures on the BLEU facility will not be re-purposed and utilized in ongoing activities involving downblending contracts. The entire site which consists of five (5) buildings and associated support structures will be decommissioned and the site returned to a free-release state. Pursuant to 10 CFR 70.38(d)(4), NFS is required to notify the NRC and begin decommissioning of any building or outdoor area that contains residual radioactivity, so that the building or outdoor area is suitable for release in accordance with NRC requirements within sixty (60) days following the date upon which no principal activities have been conducted for a period of twenty-four (24) months. For the BLEU facility, these actions would have been required to have started by November 11, 2014. Thus, per 10 CFR 70.38(f), NFS requested in Reference 2 a postponement of the start of decommissioning activities for the BLEU facility. Selection of the contractor to perform the work required by 10 CFR 70 will be finalized in mid-2015, with decommissioning to start thereafter. As a result, NFS is requesting an extension of the date on which decommissioning activities will commence from November 11, 2014, to no later than March 31, 2016. While the duration of these activities is not driven by regulation, work is expected to be completed by March 31, 2018.

In the October 10, 2014, letter from NFS to the NRC (Reference 2), justification as to why additional time to fully decommission the BLEU facility was not detrimental to the public health and safety as called for in 10 CFR 70.38(f) was provided. The actions defined in that justification will remain in-place throughout the period bounded by the new, shorter time frame described in the preceding paragraph. They include:

- The BLEU facility is of recent construction (site development started in 2002 and operation ceased in 2012) and has received routine maintenance since initial startup. This will continue until formal decommissioning work begins and equipment is dismantled and dispositioned.

- The financial assurance plan for the BLEU facility was revised in 2013 and subsequently approved by the NRC. All terms and conditions contained in this document will remain unchanged.
- Security measures will remain in effect at the BLEU facility including the use of security officers, roving patrols, and maintenance of the protective fencing and electronic monitoring equipment until formal decommissioning work begins or alternate plans related to security at the BLEU facility have been submitted to and approved by the NRC.
- Routine radiological surveys and controls will continue to be implemented throughout the BLEU facility until formal decommissioning work begins.
- All physical pathways between NFS and the BLEU facility have been isolated; i.e., cut, capped, and drained to ensure no additional Special Nuclear Material (SNM) can be transferred to the facility.

**Request #2:**

**Provide a more detailed outline of the tasks required to complete decommissioning of the BLEU Complex, and the hazards associated with the tasks. This information is required to verify compliance with 10 CFR 70.38(g)(1) which states that a decommissioning plan must be submitted for U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) approval if the procedures would involve techniques not applied routinely during cleanup or maintenance operations, or the procedures would involve significantly greater hazards.**

**NFS Response:**

In the October 10, 2014, letter from NFS to the NRC (Reference 2), an attachment provided the justification as to why an NRC-approved decommissioning plan to dismantle the BLEU facility was not required. While a detailed project plan defining each step in the BLEU facility decommissioning has not been finalized as of the date of this letter, NFS has conducted similar activities using similar techniques as will be used on the BLEU facility. These activities include the successful dismantlement of contaminated buildings, removal of contaminated equipment, removal of soil and debris, and managing the associated decommissioning activities.

Based on site assessments of the BLEU facility, the decommissioning work is not expected to involve any techniques that have not been used at NFS in the past during site cleanup, decontamination, or maintenance activities. Due to the recent date of construction and the material condition of the BLEU facility, the decommissioning will not pose significantly greater hazards than work that has been performed in the past at NFS.

**Request #3:**

**Confirm that the tasks identified in Item 2 above are covered by the commitments in Sections 1.2.5.5 and 10.5 of the license application. This information is needed to verify compliance with License Condition S-1 which states that Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc. must operate in accordance with the statements in its license application.**

**NFS Response:**

NFS has reviewed the referenced sections of SNM-124 and confirms that the planned activities required to fully decommission and dismantle the BLEU facility meet the requirements contained in our license. As was stated in the response to Request #2, while a detailed project plan for the decommissioning of the BLEU facility has not been finalized, all project milestones will involve activities that have been performed at NFS in the past including those listed in section 10.5 of SNM-124 such as dismantlement of contaminated buildings and equipment; washing, spraying, stripping, vacuuming, or otherwise cleaning the surfaces of structures or equipment; scabbling, scaling, or otherwise decontaminating structural and equipment surfaces; and source reduction measures, including removal of soil and debris.