



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION IV  
1600 E. LAMAR BLVD  
ARLINGTON TX 76011-4511

March 4, 2016

MEMORANDUM TO: Jack E. Whitten, Chief  
Nuclear Materials Safety Branch B  
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

FROM: Ray L. Kellar, Chief */RA/*  
Fuel Cycle and Decommissioning Branch  
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

SUBJECT: CLOSURE MEMORANDUM FOR REVIEW OF HILL AIR FORCE  
BASE DECOMMISSIONING PLAN

By Memorandum dated July 17, 2014 (ADAMS Accession No. ML14199A464), you requested our assistance for technical review of the Department of the Air Force's proposed decommissioning plan (DP) and final status survey plan for remediation of a magnesium-thorium alloy burial pit at the Little Mountain Test Annex, Hill Air Force Base, Utah. You also requested that we perform an environmental assessment of the proposed decommissioning project.

We have completed our review of the DP and associated documents, and we conclude that the licensee's proposed decommissioning is protective of worker and public health and safety. In addition, we completed an environmental assessment of the proposed project and concluded that the decommissioning of the burial pit will have a minimal impact on the environment. A summary of our review is provided in the enclosure to this Memorandum.

In conclusion, we recommend that you approve the licensee's proposed DP by amending NRC Materials License No. 42-23539-01AF. In support of your licensing action, we have prepared a Safety Evaluation Report (SER) and an Environmental Assessment (EA). The SER for the proposed decommissioning project can be found in ADAMS at Accession No. ML16013A248. The EA can be found in ADAMS at Accession No. ML16013A246.

Docket No. 030-28641  
License No. 42-23539-01AF  
Control No. 584307

Enclosure:  
Summary of Hill Air Force Base Decommissioning Plan Review

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Summary of Hill Air Force Base Decommissioning Plan Review

**DISTRIBUTION:**

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ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: ML16063A091

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SUNSI Review By: <b>RJE</b>	ADAMS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Publicly Available <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Publicly Available	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Sensitive <input type="checkbox"/> Sensitive	Keyword:
OFFICE	RIV:DNMS:FCDB	C:FCDB		
NAME	RJEvans	RLKellar		
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DATE	03/03/16	03/04/16		

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## Summary of Hill Air Force Base Decommissioning Plan Review

The Department of the Air Force (the licensee) submitted a proposed decommissioning plan (DP) to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) by Memorandum dated May 12, 2014 (ADAMS Accession No. ML14197A685). This submittal included a final status survey plan and derived concentration guideline level (DCGL) evaluation. In response to comments from NRC staff, the Air Force provided supplemental information by Memorandums dated September 12, 2014 (ML15030A218) and September 21, 2015 (ML15282A506). This supplemental information included a request for a waiver from the environmental impact assessment process and a Remedial Design/Action Work Plan.

The NRC conducted an acceptance review of the submittals and concluded that the information was sufficient for a detailed technical review. The NRC notified the licensee of its decision by letter dated October 6, 2014 (ML14280A590). The NRC publish a Notice in the *Federal Register* on March 13, 2015 (80 FRN 13446), announcing the receipt of the DP. The Notice also offered opportunities to comment, request a hearing, and petition for leave to intervene. No comments, hearing requests, or petitions were received by the NRC staff.

The NRC Region IV staff submitted a Technical Assistance Request dated December 31, 2014, to the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, Division of Materials Safety, States, Tribal, and Rulemaking Program (ML15005A408, not publicly available). The Region IV staff requested headquarters support in the review and approval of the proposed site-specific DCGLs. The NMSS staff subsequently responded by Memorandum dated October 19, 2015 (ML15299A164, not publicly available), approving the DCGLs as amended by the licensee.

By letter dated December 4, 2015 (ML15338A187), the NRC requested comments from the Utah Division of Radiation Control. The State responded by letter dated January 6, 2016 (ML16008B076), stating that it had no comments on the proposed licensing action.

This project was classified as a Group 4 decommissioning project in accordance with the guidance provided in NUREG-1757, "Consolidated NMSS Decommissioning Guidance," Volume 1, Revision 2. Table 1.2 from NUREG-1757 provides the principle regulatory features of the seven decommissioning groups. The principle regulatory features for a Group 4 decommissioning project, and the status of each feature, are provided below:

Principle Regulatory Feature	Status
Description	Site specific criteria, no groundwater contamination
NEPA compliance - completion of an environmental assessment	The EA & FONSI were published in the <i>Federal Register</i> on March 4, 2016 (81 FR 11597)
Restricted or unrestricted use	The licensee requested unrestricted use of the property
Decommissioning plan required - Yes or No	Yes (ML14197A685, ML15030A218, ML15282A506)

<b>Principle Regulatory Feature</b>	<b>Status</b>
Decommissioning plan review documentation	Safety Evaluation Report (ML16013A248)
Radioactive material disposition documentation	Licensee plans to dispose of wastes at U.S. Ecology, Grand View, Idaho; NRC plans to document final material disposition in close-out inspection report
Method for demonstrating site is suitable for release - survey or demonstration	The licensee plans to conduct final status survey after completion of remediation activities
Confirmatory or side-by-side survey	NRC plans to conduct confirmatory survey
Closeout inspection	NRC plans to conduct a close-out inspection simultaneously with confirmatory survey
FRN used to inform the public of NRC staff actions	The receipt of the DP was announced on March 13, 2015 (80 FRN 13446); the publication of the EA was announced on March 4, 2016 (81 FR 11597)
Documentation used to support license termination	If requested, FCDB will review the licensee's final status survey report when submitted to the NRC; FCDB will develop a new SER as part of the final status survey report review

The NRC staff considered whether a consultation with EPA was required in accordance with the EPA-NRC Memorandum of Understanding dated October 9, 2002 (see Appendix H to NUREG-1757). An EPA consultation was not required because none of the proposed DGCLs exceeded the respective residential soil concentration consultation trigger levels provided in the Memorandum of Understanding.

In summary, the licensee's proposed DP, as amended, meets the criteria of NUREG-1757 and similar guidance documents. In addition, FCDB conducted an environmental assessment using the guidance provided in NUREG-1748. The conclusions of the EA indicate that the decommissioning work can be completed with minimal impact to the environment. We recommend approval of the proposed DP through amendment of the Air Force's license.