



Laclede Gas Company
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August 31, 2016

ATTN: Document Control Desk
Director, Office of Federal and State Materials and
Environmental Management Programs
United States Nuclear Regulation Commission
Washington D.C. 20555-0001

Re: Hematite Decommissioning Project (License No. SNM-00033, Docket No. 070-00036)

Amended Response to Westinghouse's "Request for Review of Approach for Unrestricted Release of Soil in the Vicinity of the Former Evaporation Ponds that Structurally Support an 8-Inch Diameter High Pressure Natural Gas Pipeline at the Hematite Decommissioning Project" (ML14352A415)

Dear Sir/Madam,

On March 5, 2015, Laclede Gas Company ("Laclede") provided its comments to Westinghouse Electric Company, LLC's ("Westinghouse") Request for Review of Approach for Unrestricted Release of Soil in the Vicinity of the Former Evaporation Ponds that Structurally Support an 8-Inch Diameter Feeder Natural Gas Pipeline at the Hematite Decommissioning Project (the "Proposal"), which proposes to leave in place contaminated soil beneath Laclede's natural gas pipeline ("NGP") which traverses Westinghouse's Hematite, Missouri facility.

Laclede's March 2015 comments were generally opposed to the Proposal, and specifically requested that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission ("NRC") delay any action on the Proposal until Laclede had the opportunity to fully assess it through consultants who specialize in radiological and chemical contaminants. The purpose of conducting a full technical review and analysis of the Proposal was to study the risk associated with utility worker exposure to chemical and radiological contaminants, as well as to study the costs to Laclede associated with the Proposal, which must ultimately be borne by Laclede's ratepayers (i.e. the public).

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For the reasons set forth below, Laclede now withdraws its March 2015 comments, and withdraws its opposition to the Proposal.

In April 2015, Laclede retained Tetra Tech, Inc. ("Tetra Tech"), a national engineering firm with specialized knowledge and experience analyzing occupational exposure potential for chemical and radiological contaminants. Tetra Tech performed a technical review of Westinghouse's risk assessment for the Hematite site, using data provided by Westinghouse and data available through the Missouri Department Natural Resources ("MDNR") and the NRC. Specifically, Tetra Tech calculated likely exposure concentrations for various chemical and radiological contaminants present at the Hematite site for an occupational scenario in which Laclede workers would use a trench to repair or replace the NGP. Tetra Tech then compared those occupational exposure levels to OSHA Permissible Exposure Limits (PEL), NIOSH-recommended exposure limits (REL), and ACGIH threshold limit values (TLV) for chemical contaminants, and to NRC's public exposure limits for radionuclides. In short, Tetra Tech determined that the PEL, REL and TLV values were not likely to be reached or exceeded by any foreseeable work on the NGP by Laclede. Tetra Tech determined that maximum exposure doses for radionuclides are well below NRC's public exposure limits at the Hematite site. However, because EPA levels were exceeded for certain chemical contaminants, the parties decided that additional testing and analysis were appropriate using updated data.

In October 2015, and following meetings between Westinghouse and Laclede environmental staff, Westinghouse performed its own additional safety assessment directed specifically to potential exposure scenarios likely to be encountered by Laclede workers on the NGP due to chemical contaminants. This analysis utilized on trench chemical vapor intrusion exposure potential, and considered a matrix of three different alternative trenching techniques across three different likely exposure durations. This analysis was accomplished using a vapor intrusion screening tool developed by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality Voluntary Remediation Program. Of the three trenching techniques evaluated, one indicated a likelihood of exceeding acceptable worker exposure levels for one known site contaminant (Trichloroethylene (TCE)). The Westinghouse analysis also identified exposure mitigation techniques to successfully combat this risk, including utilizing one of the two alternative safe trenching techniques.

As a result of the additional worker safety analysis conducted by Tetra Tech, the identified mitigation techniques, and, importantly, Laclede's worker safety plans for work around the NGP, Laclede now believes that the Proposal is acceptable and, in light of these safeguards, will present a near-zero risk of adverse health impacts for its workers. In addition to the exposure mitigation techniques identified in the October 2015 Westinghouse analysis, Laclede is in the process of taking steps to further inform and protect workers who may access the NGP at the Hematite site. Specifically, Laclede is in the process of developing an incident response plan for the Hematite site, which is likely to include work site sampling and monitoring for any work performed by Laclede.

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Laclede also plans to provide appropriate Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response ("HAZWOPER") training and associated personal protective equipment ("PPE") in accordance with 29 CFR 1910.120. This training will soon be provided to all of Laclede's construction and maintenance crews who might perform work at the Hematite site. This additional training and PPE has been funded by Westinghouse pursuant to a confidential settlement agreement.

In summary, Laclede has now received the additional worker technical review and analysis that formed the basis of its March 2015 request for additional time to evaluate the Proposal. As a result of this additional review and analysis, and in conjunction with HAZWOPER training and PPE, Laclede is satisfied that the Proposal would not improperly endanger utility worker safety, and that relocation of the NGP is not necessary. Accordingly, Laclede hereby withdraws its objections and comments to the Proposal.

Finally, we note that in March 2015 Laclede submitted a written request to MDNR requesting that it submit its own comments in opposition to the Proposal. Subsequently, MDNR did submit comments to NRC opposing the Proposal. For all of the foregoing reasons, Laclede is contemporaneously requesting that MDNR withdraw its comments and objections to the Proposal.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions regarding any of the matters set forth in this letter.

Sincerely,

Laclede Gas Company

By



cc: Mr. Jim Smith, NRC
Ms. Gay M. Fussell, Westinghouse
Mr. Joseph Smetanka, Westinghouse