



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

April 13, 2017

Colonel Kenneth J. Tauke
US Army Garrison-Rock Island
Arsenal (IMRI-ZA)
1 Rock Island Arsenal
Rock Island, IL 61299-5000

SUBJECT: STATUS OF JEFFERSON PROVING GROUND LICENSE AMENDMENT
REQUEST FOR POSSESSION ONLY AND FOR EXEMPTION FROM
DECOMMISSIONING TIMELINESS RULE, DATED DECEMBER 21, 2016

Dear Colonel Tauke:

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has received the U.S. Army's (Army's) application for an amendment to license SUB-1435, dated December 21, 2016, for the Jefferson Proving Ground site (ML17004A186). The License Amendment Request proposes a change of the license's authorized use from Possession Only for Decommissioning to Possession Only and an exemption from the decommissioning timeliness requirements in 10 CFR 40.42(h)(2). In its letter, the Army requests to delay decommissioning for an extended period of time, until the unexploded ordnance, in the vicinity of the depleted uranium (DU) penetrators, can safely be considered inert, or when technology becomes available to safely remove the DU penetrators from the site, without unduly jeopardizing the lives of workers who would be required to locate and excavate the penetrators.

We have completed the initial processing, which is an administrative review, and have accepted your application for a more detailed technical review. The more detailed technical review may identify omissions in the submitted information or technical issues that require additional information.

Also, in accordance with the guidance in NUREG-1748 "Environmental Review Guidance for Licensing Actions Associated with Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards Programs," Appendix B (August 2003), the NRC staff will prepare an Environmental Analysis (EA) for the proposed action. Although there is much information available to prepare the EA from the previously submitted Decommissioning Plan (ML13247A552, ML13247A553, ML13247A555, and ML13247A556), dated August 28, 2013, that the Army withdrew prior to completion of the review in its letter, (ML16005A100), dated November 25, 2015, the NRC staff may further identify the need for additional information. These requests for additional information (RAIs) for omitted, technical, and environmental information will be forwarded to you under separate cover in the future.

The tentative schedule for the NRC staff review is as follows:

- Complete Acceptance Review and transmit letter to Army April 2017
- Conduct environmental analysis (EA) and technical review September 2017
- Prepare requests for additional information (RAIs) October 2017
- Transmit RAIs November 2017
- Review licensee's responses to RAIs January 2017
- Complete Safety Evaluation Report (SER), transmit License Amendment and issue Exemption February 2018

The NRC staff believes the review schedule, while aggressive, is achievable with substantial management oversight and commitment from the Army to meet the established milestones with quality submittals that resolve any identified technical and environmental issues. The NRC anticipates that the Army will maintain a high level of commitment to provide the necessary information to the NRC in accordance with this schedule allow the NRC staff to complete its review and issue a license amendment by February 28, 2018.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Agency Rules of Practice and Procedure," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of NRC's ADAMS. ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. This copy of this acceptance letter of the Army's application for docketing will provide an opportunity to members of the public to request a hearing.

If you have any questions, please contact James Smith, of my staff at (301) 415-6103.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Theodore B. Smith, Acting Chief
Materials Decommissioning Branch
Division of Uranium Recovery,
and Waste Programs
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 040-08838
License No.: SUB-1435

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