



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

May 17, 2018

Ms. Leanne Tippet Mosby, Director
Division of Environmental Quality
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON NORTHWEST MEDICAL ISOTOPES DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT RELATED TO AN EXEMPTION REQUEST FROM TITLE 10 OF THE *CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS*, PART 70.21(f) (DOCKET NUMBER: 50-0609)

Dear Ms. Mosby:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is currently reviewing a request from Northwest Medical Isotopes (NWMI) submitted on December 18, 2017 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System [ADAMS] Accession Number ML17362A040), as supplemented on March 12, 2018 (ML18088A175), for an exemption from the requirements in Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 70.21(f), to waive the requirement that NWMI submit an application to NRC for a license under 10 CFR Part 70, "Domestic Licensing of Special Nuclear Material," at least 9 months prior to commencement of construction of the plant or facility in which the 10 CFR Part 70 activities will be conducted. The 10 CFR Part 70 activities consist of the target fabrication portion of NWMI proposed Radioisotope Production Facility (RPF). NWMI previously submitted an application for a construction permit for the RPF under 10 CFR Part 50, "Domestic Licensing of Production and Utilization Facilities." The NRC conducted an environmental review of the construction permit application, NUREG-2209, "Environmental Impact Statement for the Construction Permit for the Northwest Medical Isotopes Radioisotope Production Facility," dated May 2017 (ADAMS Accession Number ML17130A862).

The proposed action is the issuance of the exemption request waiving the 9 months requirement to submit a 10 CFR Part 70 license application, and associated environmental report to the NRC for the proposed 10 CFR Part 70 activities associated with the NWMI RPF prior to commencement of construction of such facility. The exemption will allow NWMI to initiate construction of the 10 CFR Part 70 components of the RPF upon issuance of a 10 CFR Part 50 construction permit.

The NRC staff has prepared a draft environmental assessment (EA) and draft finding of no significant impact (FONSI) in accordance with 10 CFR Part 51, "Environmental Protection Regulations for Domestic Licensing and Related Regulatory Functions," the NRC regulations that implement the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. The purpose of the draft EA is to assess the potential environmental impacts of the proposed exemption and reasonable alternatives. The NRC staff concludes in the draft EA that approving the exemption request would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

Enclosed is a copy of the draft EA for review and comment by State personnel only. The draft EA contains pre-decisional information, therefore distribution and use of this document must be limited to State staff involved in the review and comment process only. It is further requested that comments be provided to the NRC staff within 30 days of receipt of this letter and its enclosure.

The NRC staff will consider your timely comments and will revise the draft EA, as appropriate, before its final issuance. Concurrent with the issuance of the final EA, the NRC staff plans to publish the associated FONSI in the *Federal Register*.

In accordance with 10 CFR Section 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 the NRC's ADAMS. ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. David Tiktinsky by telephone at (301) 415-8740 or via email at David.Tiktinsky@nrc.gov. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

\RA

Cinthya I. Román, Chief
Environmental Review Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety, Safeguards,
and Environmental Review
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No. 50-0609

Enclosure:
Draft Environmental Assessment
(Non-Public)

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DATED: May 17, 2018

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ADAMS Accession Number: ML18113A503

*** via email**

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