

**SAFETY EVALUATION REPORT  
PROPOSED EXTENSION OF TIME SCHEDULE FOR MATERIALS LICENSE NUMBER  
STB-1554, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**

**DATE:** May 9, 2018

**DOCKET NO.:** 040-09011

**LICENSE NO.:** STB-1554

**LICENSEE:** Department of the Army, Watervliet Arsenal  
1 Buffington Street  
Watervliet, New York 12189

**TECHNICAL REVIEWER:** Dennis Lawyer

**SUMMARY**

Department of the Army, Watervliet Arsenal is authorized by U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) License STB-1554 for the possession and use of source material for the purposes of research and development. The Department of the Army submitted a request from relief from notifying the NRC in writing of such occurrence as stated in 10 CFR 40.42(d) and either begin decommissioning or submit within 12 months of notification a Decommissioning Plan (DP), if required by 10 CFR 40.42(g)(1), and begin decommissioning upon approval of that plan in a letter dated February 20, 2018, and the subsequent termination of the license. The Department of the Army provided additional information in a letter dated March 23, 2018. The Department of the Army is not required to establish financial assurance as the amount of material authorized to be possessed is under the requirement in 10 CFR 40.36.

**SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

The Department of the Army provided that the last principal use of the license was on March 30, 2016. The date a request for extension is required to be submitted is 30 days after March 30, 2018, or by April 29, 2018. The extension request was dated February 20, 2018. The Department of the Army requested that the initiation of the decommissioning process be postponed till March 30, 2020. The Department of the Army utilizes a facility for this activity which currently is not contaminated. Materials once used are properly disposed of by the Joint Munitions Command and the area is surveyed. The area is not contaminated and a Decommissioning Plan is not required at this time, if the site was to be decommissioned. The request is submitted to continue the research and development associated with analyzing gun tubes for wear and potential risk to warfighters due to issues with the steel components inside the tube. The need to do this analysis is not frequent but can be initiated with little advance notice. This information is needed for safe and successful design and manufacturing supporting the Army's mission of National Defense. An extension of the requested time period would not result in a potential for increased decommissioning costs nor degradation of the site. Material needs of the facility are basic, consisting primarily of a band saw. Decommissioning costs are not significant as only a survey is expected to complete the process.

The Department of the Army will implement its safety program as submitted in its application dated June 5, 2013, and letter dated October 3, 2013. In addition, results of past inspections indicate that the Department of the Army can successfully implement its operational health and safety plan.

## **REGULATORY FRAMEWORK**

Department of the Army, License No. STB-1554 was issued under 10 CFR Part 40, Rules of General Applicability to Domestic Licensing of Source Material. The NRC is authorized by 10 CFR 40.42(f) to extend the time periods as stated in 10 CFR 40.42(d) if the Commission determines that this relief is not detrimental to the public health and safety and is otherwise in the public interest.

The staff evaluation is based on guidance in NUREG-1757, Volume 3, Revision 1, "Consolidated Decommissioning Guidance: Financial Assurance, Recordkeeping, and Timeliness." The central issue is whether the relief is not detrimental to the public health and safety and is otherwise in the public interest.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

An environmental assessment for this action is not required since decommissioning of this licensee is categorically excluded under 10 CFR 51.22(c)(20).

## **CONCLUSION**

The NRC staff has reviewed the licensee's request to extend the time period established in 10 CFR 40.42(d), according to NUREG-1757, Volume 3, Revision 1, "Consolidated Decommissioning Guidance: Financial Assurance, Recordkeeping, and Timeliness." The Department of the Army ceased principal activities on March 30, 2016. The NRC received a request to extend the time period established for initiation of decommissioning to March 30, 2020, on February 20, 2018, in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 40.42(f). As site of usage has no contamination, there is no impact upon the environment due to the delay of decommissioning and termination of the license. The Department of the Army will implement its normal radiation safety program in accordance with its license application. It is in the public's interest to allow the Department of the Army to extend the time period established for initiation of decommissioning for a period to not exceed March 30, 2018, for the following reason: Department of the Army needs the ability to perform research and development upon the structure of gun tubes for safe operations of gun tubes, operating personnel, and defense of the nation. Therefore the relief is not detrimental to the public health and safety and is otherwise in the public interest.

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