



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

APR 08 1993

Docket No. 40-8948

Shieldalloy Metallurgical Corporation
ATTN: Mr. David R. Smith
Director, Environmental Services
12 West Boulevard
P.O. Box 768
Newfield, New Jersey 08344

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO SHIELDALLOY METALLURGICAL CORPORATION'S LETTER DATED
MARCH 26, 1993

Dear Mr. Smith:

I understand from your March 26, 1993, letter to Meg Harvey, that a number of "other priority items" has led to a 45-day delay in Shieldalloy Metallurgical Corporation (SMC) submitting the Technical Basis Document for decommissioning the Cambridge, Ohio site. I would like to point out that the timeframe for submittal of the Technical Basis Document (TBD) was not selected by NRC, but rather selected by SMC and committed to by SMC in its Technical Basis Document Work Plan. In the Work Plan, SMC committed to submit the TBD to NRC for review within 120 days from the date of NRC approval of the Work Plan. NRC approved the Work Plan in a letter to SMC, dated November 18, 1993. The March 31, 1993 deadline mentioned in NRC's letter of November 18, 1993 actually provided SMC with 133 days to submit the TBD.

Nevertheless, we accept your request to delay submittal of the TBD until May 15, 1993. Please note that because of your delay, a new project manager will oversee the review of the TBD. Meg Harvey is leaving the NRC at the end of April. Effective May 1, 1993, Chad Glen will assume the responsibilities of Ms. Harvey with respect to the Cambridge site.

I would hope that in the future, any commitment SMC makes to NRC regarding a document submittal deadline, or completion of any other decommissioning activity is reasonable, realistic, and reflects consideration of other SMC priorities. I anticipate that future schedules related to decommissioning will be incorporated in the license as enforceable conditions.

With regard to your decision not to use the Analytical Hierarchy Process decisionmaking methodology (AHP), I would like to clarify that NRC staff did not oppose SMC's use of the AHP. Rather, in our comments dated September 1, 1992, NRC stated that application of the AHP "appears to be a reasonable approach to evaluating decommissioning alternatives at the Cambridge site. However, approval of this decisionmaking process by NRC staff does not necessarily guarantee NRC staff's approval of SMC's result using this process."

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Mr. David R. Smith

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If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (301) 504-2560.

Sincerely,

John H. Austin, Chief
Decommissioning and Regulatory Issues Branch
Division of Low-Level Waste Management
and Decommissioning
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

cc:

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