



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

September 14, 1989

MacDonald

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NOTE: To File
FROM: Glen L. Sjoblom
SUBJECT: STATUS OF DOE REPORT ON CESIUM-137 CAPSULE FAILURE

The DOE schedule for issuing a report of its investigation of the cause of failure of a source capsule at the Decatur Georgia irradiator facility has been delayed for several months due to the shutdown of hot cells for examining the failed source at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. The hot cells were shut-down pending seismic review/qualifications.

On September 14, 1989, I spoke with Ron Hultgren, the Chairman of the DOE cesium-137 investigation group about the schedule for completing the DOE report. He stated that the request for returning the hot cells to service was in the DOE Secretary Watkins' office for approval and that following approval, approximately 110 days were required to complete the examination of the failed capsule and the investigation report. Thus, the DOE report would be issued sometime near the end of December 1989. Again, I asked if there was anything now known to his group from the investigation, to date, that should cause any new safety concerns for the two operating cesium-137 irradiators and he said no.

He also has agreed that DOE would keep NRC informed as the work progresses, and would plan to come to Washington to brief interested NRC staff just prior to DOE issuing the report.

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TABLE I
Topics to be Addressed at the
Fourth RSI Capsule and Site Recovery Information Meeting
September 28, 1989 in Decatur, Georgia

1. Status of the ORNL hot cells. - DOE
2. Status of the capsule testing. - ORNL
3. Status of the capsules which failed the inspections at Decatur and Westerville. - WHC
4. Testing of capsules which failed the "clunk" test. - WHC
5. Capsule decontamination status. - WHC
6. Cask decontamination status. - WHC
7. Cask de-watering and drying procedures information. - WHC
8. Test results for the 7ea. defective RSI -1500 casks and repair schedule for the 1 ea defective GE-1500 cask. - WHC
9. Status of the shipment of special form capsules from Decatur. - WHC
10. Status of the shipment of capsules at Decatur and Westerville which failed the inspections. - WHC
11. Status of the shipment of normal form capsules from Decatur and Westerville. - WHC
12. Alternate shipping mode investigation for the remaining Cs-137 capsules at Decatur and Westerville. - WHC
13. NRC approval of the Westerville shipment schedule. - WHC
14. Repair schedule for the 7ea. defective RSI -1500 casks - RSI
15. Accomplishments of the Decatur cleanup activities since August 22, 1989. - MMES
16. Scheduled cleanup activities for the next month. - MMES
17. Status of the CO₂ decon process. - MMES
18. RSI Decatur capsule shipment schedule, cleanup plan and schedule, and Site release plan and schedule. - MMES
19. Media activity during the last month. - GA
20. Local complaints or comments during the last month. - GA
21. Date and location for the next meeting. - DOE
22. Add-on items.

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