

JUL 10 1990

Rocketdyne Division
Rockwell International Corporation
ATTN: Mr. P. D. Rutherford, Manager
Nuclear Safety and Reliability
Engineering
Mail Code HB07
6633 Canoga Avenue
Canoga Park, California 91303

Gentlemen:

This refers to your May 21, 1990, letter in which you requested that the provisions of 10 CFR 70.25(f)(4) which relates to financial guarantees of government licensees be applied to your facility. The fact that your facility operations may have been under exclusive contract to the Department of Energy (DOE) and utilized DOE nuclear material does not qualify Rocketdyne as a federal licensee. Therefore, 10 CFR 70.25(f)(4) cannot be used as a mechanism for financial assurance for the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL).

There are several methods by which Rocketdyne may meet the provisions of 10 CFR 70.25. First, Rocketdyne may submit a certification of financial assurance for decommissioning. However, a funding plan will be needed prior to approval of your decommissioning plan. Second, Rocketdyne may submit a decommissioning funding plan utilizing any of the methods for assuring funds contained in 10 CFR 70.25(f). Third, Rocketdyne may request an exemption from the specific requirements of 10 CFR 70.25 using the DOE letter attached to your May 21, 1990, letter as a basis for the request. Note, however, that the DOE letter only covers funding for Building 20 and not the entire site. It would be necessary for Rocketdyne to supplement this letter to cover any other contaminated facilities, i.e., the sodium burn pit and other authorized buildings. The assurance for these other areas could be in the form of a separate assurance mechanism or a similar commitment from DOE.

Sincerely,

~~Original Signed By:~~

Charles J. Haughney, Chief
Fuel Cycle Safety Branch
Division of Industrial and
Medical Nuclear Safety, NMSS

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