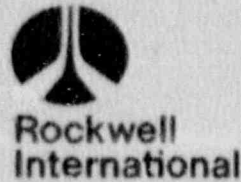


70-25

Rocketdyne Division  
Rockwell International Corporation  
6633 Canoga Avenue  
Canoga Park, California 91303

Telex: 698478  
ROCKETDYN CNPK



October 24, 1990

In reply refer to 90RC13899

Mr. George H. Biddinger  
Uranium Fuel Section  
Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20555

Subject: Decommissioning RIHL, Optional Procedures for Drain System  
and Hot Cell Doors (SNM-21, Docket 70-25)

Dear George:

As we discussed on your recent tour of Rockwell International Hot Laboratory (RIHL) decommissioning site on October 9, 1990, we are considering two potential options in our decommissioning approach, as described in the revised Decommissioning Plan.

(1) The stainless steel hot cell drain system, which is a welded assembly in the 5 foot thick concrete hot cell floor, is radioactively contaminated. The most cost effective approach for removal of this system is to partially decontaminate the system by water flushing, sealing the open ends and removing the contaminated system as part of the demolition of the building after the building was decontaminated and released for unrestricted use.

(2) Removable surface contamination will be removed from the steel hot cell doors as best as possible; however, the most cost effective approach to remove fixed contamination is to transfer the doors from the facility to a nearby decontamination facility at SSFL for decontamination. Removal of the contaminated hot cell doors as part of the demolition of the building is the most cost effective because they weigh in excess of 66,000 pounds each, they do not fit through the existing doorways, and there is no equipment in the facility for moving this size load. The doors were

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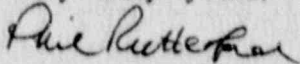
Page 2

installed as part of the construction of the building and before the concrete decontamination room was constructed around the doors.

A key item in these approaches is the release of the facility for unrestricted use before removal of the hot cell drain system and hot cell doors to allow the use of conventional demolition techniques. Please let us know if these approaches are feasible from a regulatory standpoint and if they are acceptable to you.

If you have any questions on the subject, please contact Fred Schrag at (818) 700-5310.

Very truly yours,



P. D. Rutherford  
Manager  
Radiation Protection and  
Health Physics Services

cc:

Merri Horn NRC Hq  
Chuck Hooker NRC Region V