



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

MAR 11 1994

Docket No. 40-8027

Col. Otis Williams  
District Commander  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 61  
Tulsa, OK 74121-0061

Dear Mr. Williams:

As discussed in the meeting of February 24, 1994, with Mr. James Shepherd of my staff, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is striving to establish a closer working relationship among the federal agencies involved in the Sequoyah Fuels Corporation (SFC) site remediation. As a first step in this process, we are transmitting to you, for your review and comment, a copy of the Site Characterization Plan (SCP) recently submitted by SFC to NRC. We request you provide any comments on that document to us not later than April 18, 1994. To facilitate incorporation of your comments in our transmittal to SFC, we request that they be keyed to the paragraph numbers in the SCP, and that the comments identify specific actions you wish SFC to perform in order to meet your needs for site characterization.

As background information for you, SFC was added to the Site Decommissioning Management Plan list in June of 1993. Activities for SDMP sites are identified in the Action Plan to Ensure Timely Cleanup of Site Decommissioning Management Plan Sites (57 FR 13389). This Plan defines a stepwise process for remediating contaminated sites. The first step is for the licensee to identify the extent and type of contamination on and around the site that resulted from licensed activities. The first phase of this step is for SFC to develop a plan to characterize the contamination. While formal approval of the SCP is not required, SFC has submitted their plan to NRC for comment. After receiving comments on the SCP, Sequoyah will take approximately one year to conduct characterization of the site, after which they will submit a Site Characterization Report (SCR). The Action Plan specifies formal approval of the SCR. Upon approval of the SCR, Sequoyah is to submit a plan to remediate the site to currently accepted standards. After NRC approves the plan by issuing a license amendment, which allows for hearing rights for intervenors, SFC should conduct the remediation of radioactive contamination as planned. As you know, SFC signed a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) 3008(h) Consent Order in August 1993, that specifies a similar process for materials regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the provision of RCRA.

As the next step in developing our working relationship, I propose an interagency meeting to discuss any issues and concerns related to the SCP, as well as the process for resolving any issues about remediation of radioactive materials on and around the site. I suggest the meeting be in Oklahoma by the

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our distribution list for all correspondence related to SFC, effectively immediately.

If you have any questions on these matters, please contact Mr. Jim Shepherd at (301)504-2567.

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: Maurice Axelrad, Esq.  
Diane Curran, Esq.  
Brita Haugland-Cantrell, Esq.  
James Wilcoxon, Esq.  
Allyn Davis  
Col. Otis Williams  
Charles Scott  
Kathy Peter  
Merritt Youngdeer  
John Ellis

IDENTICAL LTRS WERE SENT TO: K. D. PETER, M. YOUNGDEER, AND C. SCOTT

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- 2 -

end of April 1994 so your comments on the SCP are discussed prior to the time NRC responds to SFC on their plan.

An additional step we are taking to facilitate future communications among the cognizant federal agencies is to add a contact for each of these agencies to our distribution list for all correspondence related to SFC, effectively immediately.

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Sincerely,  
Original Signed By

John H. Austin, Chief  
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Issues Branch  
Division of Low-Level Waste Management  
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Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
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cc: Maurice Axelrad, Esq.  
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Allyn Davis  
Col. Otis Williams  
Charles Scott  
K. D. Peter  
M. Youngdeer  
C. Scott

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DATE	3/11/94	3/11/94	3/11/94	3/11/94	3/11/94

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