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United States General Accounting Office

Detroit Regional Office

July 26, 1993

Mr. John Austin, Chief Decommissioning and Regulatory Issues Branch Division of Low-Level Waste Management & Decommissioning Office of Nuclear Material Safety & Safequards U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Mr. Austin:

As you are aware, GAO is currently conducting a review of the Nuclear Regulatory Agency's Site Decommissioning Management Plan (Code 302085). As part of this review, we are interested in determining whether any systemic problems are delaying site cleanup and exploring possible solutions to these problems.

To assist us in this objective, we plan to collect information on each site through discussions with the site project managers. For your information, we will be contacting each project manager shortly to arrange a telephone interview to discuss the sites for which they are responsible. Enclosed is a list of the questions we plan to discuss.

If you have any questions, please contact Joanna Allen at 313-256-8046 or Odell Bailey at 313-256-8091. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Anthony A. Krukowski Issue Area Manager Energy Issues

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Timothy Johnson Decommissioning and Regulatory Issues Branch (w/enc.)

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## U.S. General Accounting Office SDMP Site Interview Questions

- Why was the site listed on the SDMP?
- When did the licensee's operations with radioactive materials cease?
- 3. How was the contamination discovered?
- 4. What potential health risk does the site pose? What is the dose rate in mrem/hr.
- 5. What is the current status of the decommissioning plan? What are the actual and/or projected dates for completion of each phase?
  - a. Site characterization?
  - b. Remediation plan?
  - c. Remediation activities?
  - d. Licensee confirmatory survey?
  - e. NRC confirmatory survey?
  - f. Other?
- 6. What is the estimated cost of the cleanup, and who prepared the estimate? Date?
- 7. How much money has been set aside for the cleanup, and by whom?
- 8. What was the site's inspection priority before and after placement on the SDMP?
- 9. Have any enforcement actions been taken to expedite the cleanup since placement on the SDMP?
  - a. Notice of Violation
  - b. Civil Penalty
  - c. Order
  - d. Demand for Information
  - e. Notice of Deviation
  - f. Notice of Nonconformance
  - g. Confirmatory Action Letter
  - h. Letter of Reprimand
- 10. What factor or factors are delaying the cleanup?
- 11. What are some possible remedies to the factors contributing to the cleanup delay?
- 12. What can be done to expedite this cleanup?