



70-1113

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

January 23, 1997

Dr. Ralph J. Reda
Manager, Fuels and Facility Licensing
General Electric Company
P.O. Box 780, MC J26
Wilmington, NC 28402

SUBJECT: POSTPONEMENT OF FREE RELEASE OF CaF_2 ACCUMULATION AREA ADJACENT TO
PROCESS LAGOON SYSTEM (TAC NO. L30906)

Dear Dr. Reda:

The Fuel Cycle Licensing Branch staff has completed its review of your September 13 and October 24, 1996, requests to postpone decommissioning of the CaF_2 accumulation area, adjacent to the process lagoon system. You supported the requests by stating the area is adjacent to an operating lagoon system and by implication could become recontaminated.

Based on our review, we cannot grant your request for delay because you have not adequately justified such delay in accordance with NRC requirements in 10 CFR 70.38(f). An adequate justification would have demonstrated that the delay is in the public interest by addressing factors described in the Decommissioning Timeliness rule [59 FR 36030] and other relevant factors such as those listed in § 70.38(i). These factors include: (1) record of regulatory compliance; (2) maintenance and monitoring of the area; (3) decommissioning financial assurance for the area; (4) plans for resuming operations of the area; (5) availability of waste disposal facilities; (6) reduction in dose or waste volume due to radioactive decay; (7) technical feasibility of decommissioning; (8) regulatory requirements of other government agencies; (9) lawsuits; (10) groundwater treatment and restoration activities; or (11) other factors that demonstrate a clear public interest in delaying decommissioning, such as prompt decommissioning could result in more environmental harm than deferred decommissioning.

Your indication that the area may be recontaminated does not provide this demonstration.

Accordingly, within 60 days from the date of this letter, submit a request for delay of decommissioning or an alternative schedule for decommissioning that addresses the relevant factors listed in 10 CFR 70.38(i), or provide a decommissioning plan for the area within 12 months of your notification (i.e., no later than September 13, 1997.)

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Dr. Ralph J. Reda

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Please reference the above TAC No. on future correspondence related to this matter. If you have any questions, regarding this matter, please contact Mike Lamastra of my staff at (301) 415-8139.

Sincerely,

Original signed by: Madams for

Michael F. Weber, Chief
Licensing Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
and Safeguards, NMSS

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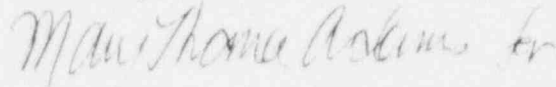
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Dr. Ralph J. Reda

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Please reference the above TAC No. on future correspondence related to this matter. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Mike Lamastra of my staff at (301) 415-8139.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael F. Weber".

Michael F. Weber, Chief
Licensing Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
and Safeguards, NMSS

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