



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

December 7, 1998

DOCKET NO: 40-8027
LICENSEE: Sequoyah Fuels Corporation
FACILITY: Sequoyah Facility
Gore, Oklahoma

SUBJECT: SAFETY EVALUATION REPORT ON LICENSE AMENDMENT
APPLICATION DATED OCTOBER 14, 1998, RE: AIR SAMPLING

1. Background

In November 1992, Sequoyah Fuels Corporation (SFC) shut down its uranium oxide conversion process; on July 7, 1993, SFC notified the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) that it had ceased all operations. In response, NRC notified SFC that the only activities permitted were those related to site security and decommissioning. By license amendment application dated October 14, 1998, SFC requested administrative changes to the license to remove the requirement for off-site air samples from the environmental monitoring schedule in Chapter 5 of License SUB-1010.

2. Discussion

2.1 Licensee Proposal

The licensee proposes to remove the requirement for off-site air samples from Table 5-2, "Environmental Monitoring Schedule" and add quarterly isotopic analyses for uranium, thorium, and radium to fence-line samples. The basis for this proposed change is that the currently authorized operations at the facility do not allow elevated or energetic release of licensed materials; therefore, fence-line sampling provides adequate monitoring.

2.2 Staff Evaluation

The staff reviewed the licensee's proposal and limits of operation on the facility and determined that there are no mechanisms for energetic or elevated releases. Staff agrees that data obtained from the fence-line sampling provides sufficient information about airborne contamination, and that the off-site samples do not contribute to the knowledge of current releases of radiation. Based on this review, the staff agrees that the requirements for off-site air sampling can, therefore, be deleted from the license.

9910260145 981207
PDR ADOCK 04009027
C PDR

3. Staff Conclusion and Recommendation

3.1 Conclusion

On February 16, 1993, SFC submitted a 10 CFR 40.42 Notice informing NRC that it was permanently ceasing operations. On November 26, 1993, NRC notified SFC that authorized activities were limited to those related to decommissioning, and routine environmental and effluent monitoring. The staff reviewed this license amendment application, considering these limitations, and concluded that the fence-line air sampling provides adequate information on airborne contamination, and off-site samples are not necessary. The staff concludes that the changes requested in this license amendment application will adequately protect the health and safety of employees, the general public, and the environment and are not inimical to the common defense and security.

3.2 Recommendation

Therefore, the staff recommends approval of the application.

The Region IV Principal Inspector has no objections to this action.



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

LICENSEE: Sequoyah Fuels Corporation

INSTALLATIONS: Sequoyah Facility
I-40 and Highway 10
Gore, OK 74435

SUBJECT: CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR AMENDMENT UNDER THE
PROVISION OF 10 CFR 51.22(c)(11) REQUEST DATED
OCTOBER 14, 1998, RE: AIR SAMPLING

By letter dated October 14, 1998, Sequoyah Fuels Corporation requested an amendment to License SUB-1010 to authorize removal of the requirement for off-site air sampling. The deletion of these conditions will not: (i) result in a change in the types nor amounts of any effluent that may be released off site; (ii) result in an increase in individual or cumulative occupational exposure; (iii) result in any construction impact; and (iv) result in any potential for or consequences from radiological accidents. Therefore, the staff concludes that these changes will not adversely affect the public health and safety nor the environment. Accordingly, pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(c)(11), neither an Environmental Impact Statement nor an Environmental Assessment is warranted for the proposed action.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY
COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John W. N. Hickey", is written over the typed name.

John W. N. Hickey, Chief
Low-Level Waste and Decommissioning
Projects Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 040-08027
License No.: SUB-1010

cc: SFC Distribution List