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Stephen Poy
Agreement State Programs Branch
Division of Material Safety, State, Tribal, and Rulemaking Programs
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Subject: Conquista Site, Texas – Proposal for Solar Development

Mr. Poy,

I am writing to you seeking guidance about what procedures and approvals may be necessary for the planning and development of a solar power installation on the Conquista Landfill Site in Texas. ConocoPhillips is in discussions with a private solar power developer (Project Navigator, Ltd.) about this project and is motivated to see such a project move ahead.

ConocoPhillips is the Responsible Party for remediation and maintenance of a former uranium and tail cuttings closed landfill site, known as the Conquista site, located in Karnes County, Texas. The site is under the regulatory authority of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). It is anticipated that all TCEQ site closure and environmental requirements will soon be met, at which time regulatory and oversight authority will be transferred to the Federal Government's Department of Energy (DOE) and Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

Given that the future site use is restricted ConocoPhillips wanted to promote a site reuse project which would involve the installation of a photovoltaic (PV) solar power installation atop the capped portion of the site (**see attached** presentation by Project Navigator, Ltd. to TCEQ on 3.12.18 for further details). As is occurring at other closed landfill sites nationwide, such a project would serve to provide a long-term beneficial reuse of the site.

It should be noted that the solar power installation will be installed on a self-ballasting racking system so as to not impact the engineered cap. The installation will also not impair long-term OM&M activities, including groundwater monitoring.

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In summary, the reason for this inquiry is:

- What is the process, and what conditions will need to be satisfied, for the NRC to grant permission for the development of a solar power installation at the Conquista site, after all appropriate TECQ regulations have been satisfied?

ConocoPhillips is excited about the reuse of regulatory closed and compliant, former waste sites for the development of renewable power installations, such as solar. Such a strategy repurposes otherwise unusable, energy related sites back into use as power systems for the next three decades.

ConocoPhillips is prepared to discuss the details of solar power development on the Conquista site. We have undertaken considerable planning work in partnership with Project Navigator, Ltd., and are ready to share proposed conceptual designs that are consistent with DOE's long-term stewardship policy goals.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 832-486-2425.

Sincerely,



Neal Goates
Program Manager – RM&R

Cc: Marc Ferries, Project Navigator, Ltd, Houston, TX.
Rob Fritz & Ian Webster, Project Navigator, Ltd, Brea, CA