




**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
REGION II
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June 5, 2023

MEMORANDUM TO: Anthony Masters, Director
Division of Fuel Facility Inspection
Region II

FROM: Joel Rivera, Sr. Fuel Facility Inspector
Projects Branch
Division of Fuel Facility Inspection
Region II


Signed by Rivera Ortiz, Joel
on 06/05/23

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS – LICENSEE
PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF NUCLEAR FUEL SERVICES,
INC., DOCKET NUMBER 07000143

On May 18, 2023, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) conducted a public “observation” meeting to discuss the performance of the Nuclear Fuel Services (NFS) facility as part of the Licensee Performance Review (LPR) process. The official meeting summary, with a list of attendees and copy of the slides, is available via Agencywide Documents Access and Management System ADAMS Accession Number ML23146A115.

While the meeting’s purpose was not to actively solicit comments towards regulatory decisions, as stated in the public meeting notice dated April 11, 2023 ([ML23102A010](#)), the NRC listened to concerns and answered questions from the public in a variety of topics related to NFS’s performance and operations. The purpose of this memorandum is to capture the main topics received from the public during the “question and answer” session of the LPR public meeting, as understood by the NRC staff in attendance. The NRC staff has no intent to formally consider these comments for ongoing regulatory decisions because the LPR process is not one of the official avenues for public involvement in NRC regulatory decisions. However, the NRC staff will consider these comments to identify opportunities for improvement in the NRC’s oversight process, as applicable.

In general, questions and comments from the public were in reference to:

- desire for more plain language in NRC’s documents, webpage, and communications
- desire to be better informed of ongoing operational events at NFS to avoid confusion and know they are safe
- concerns with NFS’s environmental sampling and acquisition of nearby properties
- discontent with NRC’s regulatory limits for radiation protection, particularly for effluents
- NFS’s performance in relation to recent plant events (e.g., Event Notice 56326)
- desire to have comments/feedback included on NRC’s official records
- criteria for identifying an area needing improvement (ANI)
- NFS’s transparency with the community
- cancelation of a previous cancer study and desire for a new cancer study in the community around NFS
- cumulative effects of radiation on the nearby population

- desire for more engagement and meetings regarding the license amendment request for the uranium purification and conversion to metal process (“U-Metal process”), currently under NRC review
- impact of NFS operations and proposed U-Metal process on public health and the environment
- discontent with the Atomic Safety Licensing Board Panel’s (ASLBP’s) decision to deny a public hearing for the U-Metal license amendment request
- concerns with the NRC’s ability to act in the best interest of the public in light of the contract already awarded to NFS for the U-Metal process
- concerns with modifications of the NFS facility to support the new U-Metal process
- disapproval of nuclear weapons in the U.S.

Several of the topics listed above have been addressed in previous public meetings and captured on the NFS’s frequently asked questions (FAQs) page available via this link: <https://www.nrc.gov/materials/fuel-cycle-fac/fuel-fab/nfs-faqs.html>. The NRC staff plans to follow up on these comments to the extent required by the agency’s policies and procedures. Particularly, the staff plans to update the NFS’s FAQs to reflect the current status of the facility and address new questions resulting from the May 18th LPR public meeting. The updated FAQs will be available in ADAMS under NFS’s docket.

Docket No.: 70-143
License No.: SNM-124

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DATED JUNE 5, 2023

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