

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON D C 20555

1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: B. H. Grier, Director
Region I, IE

FROM: N. M. Haller, Director
Division of Safeguards Inspection, IE

L. B. Higginbotham, Acting Director
Division of Fuel Facilities & Material Safety Inspection, IE

SUBJECT: PREPARATION OF ACTION PLAN FOR REGION I MONITORING OF B&W'S
PLANNED PHASE-OUT OF HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM OPERATIONS
(APOLLO AND LEECHBURG FACILITIES)

On February 2, 1978, W. G. Martin, A. T. Gody and T. E. Shaub of your staff presented a briefing for Dr. Volgenau on Region I's plan to monitor and verify the licensee's process and equipment cleanout in preparation for shutdown. After the briefing Dr. Volgenau requested that Region I prepare a comprehensive plan for IE actions, covering both safeguards and safety, at B&W. We understand you have such a plan in preparation.

Based on the above discussion with Dr. Volgenau and on subsequent discussions with other Headquarters staff, we are providing some guidance that we believe will be helpful in formally developing the Action Plan. The plan should put to rest any safeguards or safety concerns that might exist at B&W as a result of the shutdown. Your review and verification of the safeguards and safety aspects of residual highly enriched uranium at the licensee's facility should be as exact as possible and independent of determinations made by the licensee. The use of outside (DOE National Laboratory) support or contracted services is encouraged, and the plan should specify the degree of DOE involvement.

From a safeguards perspective, the desire is to draw a "bottom line" on questions such as:

- 1) How much highly enriched uranium remains at the facility; i.e., how much is:
 - (a) held up in process equipment, ducts, vents, floors, walls, etc.;
 - (b) residual on the plant grounds (buried, settled on or near the outside of buildings, etc.);
- 2) Where is the remaining material located at the facility; and

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what are its characteristics (form, weight percent, etc.);

- 3) What safeguards concerns will exist at the facility upon completion of the phase-out plan?

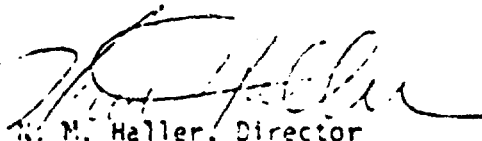
From a health and safety perspective, the plan should:

- 1) Address the health and safety concerns associated with B&W's current plan of placing the plant in a stand-by status;
- 2) Specify the Region I program for monitoring the licensee's phase-out of operations to see if it is done according to licensee's plan.

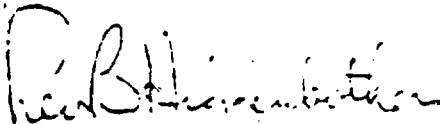
Development of the Action Plan should be completed by March 22, 1978. Upon completion of this Action Plan, we will prepare an Information Paper to inform the Commission of the current status of this licensee. A Commission Briefing may be required following completion of the Information Paper.

Further NRC actions are dependent upon the licensee's decision for going to a stand-by status or decommissioning of the plant. We expect to be notified by March 10, 1978 if the Navy intends to maintain the high enriched uranium operations in an emergency stand-by state.

If you have any questions on the requested Action Plan, please contact Bill Brach (492-8080) for safeguards concerns and Doug Sly (492-8188) for health and safety concerns.



M. M. Haller, Director
Division of Safeguards Inspection
Office of Inspection and Enforcement



Leo B. Higginbotham, Acting Director
Division of Fuel Facilities and Materials
Safety Inspection
Office of Inspection and Enforcement

cc. E. Volgenau
J. Davis