



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

December 1, 1999

MEMORANDUM TO: Cheryl A. Trotter, Chief
Radiation Protection, Environmental Risk,
and Waste Management Branch
Office of Research

FROM: Larry W. Camper, Chief
Decommissioning Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO USER NEED LETTER

We appreciate the positive response to the user need letter of September 3, 1999. All five of the specific items in the user need letter were responded to in a useful and supportive manner. We note with appreciation the improved level of support and collegial effort on the part of the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) staff and managers. Decommissioning is an important Agency activity; RES has had, and is expected to continue to have, a significant role in achieving Agency goals for this activity.

We agree with your statement that schedules are tight and deadlines are close. We encourage RES to take steps to assure that deadlines, both for contractor products and staff products, will be met. Although it may be difficult, we encourage RES to accelerate completion of products wherever possible. We recognize that the final versions of various codes will not be available prior to completion of the Standard Review Plan (SRP) for License Termination; however, the Division of Waste Management does need the beta versions of these codes to be available to help draft the SRP. In particular, we are planning for the beta version of DandD version 2 to be available in early March 2000; the beta versions of RESRAD 6.0, and RESRAD-BUILD 3.0 are needed in May 2000.

We remind RES that because NUREG-1549, DG-4006, and NUREG-5512, volumes 3 & 4 should be finalized with as much consistency as possible with the Standard Review Plan and current decommissioning policies, review and approval of these documents by the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS), prior to issuance, is desired.

RES and NMSS should jointly evaluate the status and progress of the SEDSS computer code on, at least, an annual basis. Of particular concern is that the SEDSS development cost provide an appropriate return on investment. A tool suitable for staff use for site specific

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evaluation of licensee submittals is desired with enough flexibility to cover a wide range of cases without the need for further development cycles. (Incidentally some licensees may find SEDSS useful for site specific analyses). Staff should carefully monitor development of similar tools by others and take advantage of approaches that may provide cost or time savings.

As we continue to work through development of the SRP and conduct licensing reviews, we expect that additional technical issues will arise for which work by RES is appropriate. As these issues develop, we may issue additional user need letters to request your assistance.

A minor point that we have discussed with you relates to item 2 in your October 28, 1999 response. The RESRAD family of codes available in November were RESRAD 5.91 and RESRAD-BUILD 2.37, not the probabilistic versions as mistakenly stated; a recent workshop sponsored by RES focused on RESRAD 5.91.

cc: A. Thadani, RES
T. King, RES

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