



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

December 15, 1999

70-143

Dr. Thomas S. Baer, Vice President
Safety and Regulatory
Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc.
P.O. Box 337, MS 123
Erwin, Tennessee 37650

SUBJECT: NORTH SITE DECOMMISSIONING FINAL RELEASE CRITERIA PROPOSED
BY NFS (TAC NO. L31033)

Dear Dr. Baer:

This refers to your North Site Decommissioning Plan - Proposed Criteria dated February 24, 1999 (21G-99-0033) and a revision to that document dated July 30, 1999 (21G-99-0058).

The NRC has reviewed the proposed criteria for decommissioning the Nuclear Fuels Services, Inc. (NFS) North Site area, at your facility near Erwin, Tennessee. NFS has proposed criteria based on limited land use scenarios of industrial and suburban residential uses and elimination of shallow ground water pathways. NRC staff has reached these preliminary conclusions on your proposal:

1. NFS land use scenarios of industrial, recreational, and suburban residential are acceptable for this site;
2. Future use of drinking water from a shallow well in the alluvial formations in the North Site area is not reasonable because:
 - a. the shallow ground water is not of high quality,
 - b. the city of Erwin supplies drinking water, and
 - c. alternate, higher quality supplies are available from surface water sources such as Banner Spring and the Nolichucky River, as well as from deeper groundwater sources.

Based on these conclusions, NRC will seek agreement with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region IV, and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation that radiological dose from drinking shallow groundwater does not need to be considered. Also, NRC will proceed with a technical evaluation of NFS dose calculations included with the submittal.

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PDR ADDON 07000143

December 15, 1999

Dr. Thomas S. Baer

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If you have any questions regarding this matter, I can be reached on (301) 415-7249 or by e-mail at MTA@NRC.GOV. Please reference the above TAC No. in future correspondence related to this request.

Sincerely,

Original signed by
Mary T. Adams, Team Leader
Licensing and International
Safeguards Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
and Safeguards, NMSS

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Dr. Thomas S. Baer

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Sincerely,



Mary T. Adams, Team Leader
Licensing and International
Safeguards Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
and Safeguards, NMSS

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cc Leo Romanowski, EPA R IV
Roger Perry, TDEC
Clayton Bullington, TDEC
Michael Hughes, TDEC

If you have any questions regarding this matter, I can be reached on (301) 415-8107 or by e-mail at THC@nrc.gov. Please reference the above TAC No. in future correspondence related to this request.

Sincerely,

Thomas H. Cox
Licensing and International
Safeguards Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
and Safeguards, NMSS

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