

MEMORANDUM TO: E. William Brach, Director
Spent Fuel Project Office
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

FROM: Michael F. Weber, Director
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
and Safeguards
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

SUBJECT: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REQUEST FOR THE OFFICE OF
NUCLEAR MATERIAL SAFETY AND SAFEGUARDS REVIEW OF
THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S SURPLUS PLUTONIUM
DISPOSITION FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Staff from the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards (FCSS) and the Division of Waste Management (DWM) plan to review portions of the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Surplus Plutonium Disposition (SPD) Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). Staff review will focus on the mixed oxide (MOX) fuel fabrication facility sections of the SPD FEIS. This review is intended to determine how much of the FEIS NRC can adopt for its EIS for the MOX fabrication facility license process, and to discover if there are any areas that need more information. NRC intends to complete this general review in early March 2000 and will then provide Duke COGEMA Stone & Webster (DCS) with the results of the review. We anticipate that these results will aid DCS in developing an environmental report to accompany the MOX fabrication facility license application. NRC staff will then review the DCS environmental report and will generate an EIS.

FCSS requests that the Spent Fuel Project Office (SFPO) support the environmental review process. Specifically, FCSS requests that SFPO review the transportation aspects of the SPD EIS that involve transportation of plutonium-bearing materials (i.e., MOX fresh fuel) from the MOX fuel fabrication facility location to reactors for irradiation. NRC is considering adopting the transportation portions of the DOE SPD EIS.

We would also like to discuss how SFPO would implement the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for any MOX related licensing actions. We want to make sure that the NRC's collective approach is as streamlined and cohesive as possible.

CONTACT: B. J. Davis, NMSS/URLL
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E. W. Brach

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Please charge staff time used for this review to RITS #07003098040S, 211E, L20357, MOX Environmental Review. FCSS would like the SFPO review to be completed by March 6, 2000. If you have any questions, please contact Andrew Persinko on (301) 415-6522.

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