

MEMORANDUM TO: Theodore S. Sherr, Chief
Licensing and International
Safeguards Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
and Safeguards, NMSS

THRU: Charles W. Emeigh, Section Chief
Licensing Section
Licensing and International
Safeguards Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
and Safeguards, NMSS

FROM: Leslie Fields, Project Manager
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Licensing and International
Safeguards Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
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SUBJECT: SITE SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff attended the 5th Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) meeting on Thursday, December 16, 1999, in Muskogee, Oklahoma (see Attachment 1). The meeting began with an update of the decommissioning activities at the Fansteel facility, followed by discussion of the document "Questions and Answers Related to Fansteel Inc.'s Decommissioning Plan" (see Attachment 2) prepared by Earth Sciences Consultants, succeeded by board discussions, and concluding with questions from the audience. Approximately 3 or 4 members of the public were in attendance along with SSAB members and other local representatives. Attachment 1 contains the list of attendees.

John Hunter of Fansteel gave a brief summary of activities at the Fansteel facility as follows:

The first request to decommission the Fansteel facility was made in 1991, formalized and resubmitted in 1994, and updated in 1996. On March 31, 1999, NRC asked Fansteel to separate the decommissioning plan into 2 separate plans for unrestricted and restricted release. Fansteel resubmitted the plan as two separated plans and is holding 12 acres for restricted release.

On June 1, 1999, a tornado struck Fansteel's facility.

On June 4, 1999, NRC completed an Operation Readiness Review inspection.

On June 29, 1999, Fansteel submitted a report of completed repairs after tornado damage. According to Hunter the cost of the repairs was estimated to be \$1.7 M.

On October 14, 1999, the State of Oklahoma Attorney General submitted his request for hearing regarding the Fansteel decommissioning plan. Fansteel's responses to the State of Oklahoma hearing request were submitted on October 29, 1999.

Hunter stated that he does not know when the hearing will be held or what subjects will be allowed.

Joseph Harrick of Earth Sciences discussed the document "Questions and Answers related to Fansteel Decommissioning Plan"

The main focus of this part of the meeting was to address issues of concern and present answers to questions that have been raised as a result of the decommissioning plan.

Fansteel's Responses to Board's Concerns

The construction of the containment cell and how it will affect the surrounding environment were the main topics of discussion. The Board asked the question, how will the containment cell affect the railroad. Hunter stated that the railroad will stop about 800 feet short of the containment cell, therefore, there will be no impact to the railroad. It was mentioned that an article has been published in the Muskogee Daily Phoenix where a reporter has the same concerns as the State of Oklahoma Attorney General's office regarding possible contamination to the Arkansas river. Fansteel stated that any contamination from leachate will be cleaned up in the trench before reaching the river. Fansteel reinforced that residues of the operating processes will not go into the containment cell. Questions pertaining to who will be long term caretaker were discussed. Fansteel mentioned that a quasi-state entity and a sovereign nation have shown interest in becoming long-term caretakers. The possibilities for radiation releasing to the atmosphere and flooding concerns were discussed. The Board informed the public that air sampling data can be obtained from the Fansteel Muskogee facility and that Fansteel is outside the 500-year flood plain. The Board asked if an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared and Hunter stated that NRC will prepare an EIS and the ground work has started.

The Board entertained questions from the audience

The question was asked what will become of the Site Specific Advisory Board Committee once the decommissioning plan has been approved. The Board responded by stating that the committee will stay active during the Fansteel operating life.

With respect to air sampling, the question was asked whether or not Fansteel will measure radiation into the atmosphere. Fansteel responded by stating that they will do air sampling during the initial construction of the containment cell. Current air data is kept on site and available upon request.

A member of the audience stated that in 1987 the Arkansas river flooded and does shift from time to time, in fact the containment pond appeared to have been breached. The question was asked whether or not flooding issues had been considered. The Board responded by stating that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has indicated Fansteel is outside the 500-year flood plain. It was also stated that flooding issues had been reviewed and addressed.

There was a concern by a member of the audience that the Board members do not have enough technical expertise to verify if NRC safety standards are acceptable. The question was asked whether or not other auditors overlook the values and safety measures at Fansteel to confirm if they are acceptable. The Board responded by stating that State of Oklahoma regulates water quality, Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulates occupational safety, and NRC regulates nuclear safety.

The meeting concluded at 9:30 PM.

John Hunter of Fansteel has reviewed this document and has no objection to the content. All comments have been enclosed.

Docket 40-7580
License SMB-911

Attachment: "Questions and Answers
 Related to Fansteel Inc.'s,
 Decommissioning Plan"

cc: Mr. John J. Hunter
 Corporate Manager of Process
 Engineering and
 Facilities Construction
 Fansteel, Inc.
 Number Ten Tantalum Place
 Muskogee, Oklahoma 74403-9297

5th Site Specific Advisory Board meeting
List of Attendees
December 16, 1999
Fansteel 40-7580

NAME	ORGANIZATION
John Hunter	Fansteel
Joe Harrick	Earth Sciences Consultants
Elizabeth Ubinger	Earth Sciences Consultants
Don Cook	Cook Construction
Orville Eaton	SSAB member
Lauren Brookey	STB
Leslie Fields	NRC
Dean Steinbach	Earth Sciences Consultants
Paul Handa	Kaiser
Gary Richards	Fansteel
Pat Gwin	Cherokee Nation
Bonnie Hefner	Fansteel
Gwen Coburn	Public
Dave Dillon	Oklahoma Dept. of Envirnmnt Quality
Scott Robinson	Port of Muskogee
David Gerard	Muskogee Daily Phoenix
Thomas Harris	Public
Doris Gunn	Public
Eldine Stevens	United Keetoowoh Indian Tribe

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