



DUKE COGEMA
STONE & WEBSTER

Mr. Eric J. Leeds, Chief
Special Projects Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

06 December 2000
DCS-NRC-000028
Response Requested: *Yes*
By: *29 Dec 2000*

Attention: Document Control Desk

Subject: Docket Number 070-03098
Duke Cogema Stone & Webster
Mixed Oxide (MOX) Fuel Fabrication Facility
Licensing Schedule

Dear Mr. Leeds:

Following award of the MOX Fuel Fabrication and Irradiation Services contract by the US Department of Energy (DOE) in March 1999, Duke Cogema Stone & Webster, LLC (DCS) established a preliminary schedule for submittal of a construction authorization request (CAR) as the first step in the MOX Fuel Fabrication Facility (MFFF) license application. Our schedule called for CAR submittal to the NRC in September 2000.

Subsequent to the establishment of that schedule, several factors contributed to a delay in the planned submittal of the CAR and associated safety assessment (SA) of the design bases for the MFFF. These factors included a delay in the release of the Record of Decision (ROD) resulting from DOE's Surplus Plutonium Disposition (SPD) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and specific siting within the Savannah River site's "F" area, and the determination that a separate MFFF Environmental Report (ER) would be required.

We established a "working date" of 22 December 2000 earlier this year to reflect these changes while detailed planning and design development proceeded. We have maintained contact with your staff throughout this process to ensure that they were kept apprised of significant issues and likely licensing schedule scenarios. We also have factored our understanding of NRC's planning basis, consistent with the information described in your public meetings in Augusta, GA, and Columbia, SC, into our schedule.

As we have moved forward, we have determined that the near-term schedule enclosed with this letter should be achievable, absent any unanticipated problems encountered during final document reviews. This schedule also assumes the identification of no significant issues at our pending meeting with your staff, where we will review our approach to meeting your needs for content of the CAR and SA.

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The highlights of the near-term schedule include:

ER Submittal	22 Dec 2000
CAR & SA Submittal	28 Feb 2001

The longer-term significant milestones include:

Construction Authorization	Jul 2002
Commencement of Construction	Jul 2002
Possession-and-Use Application Submittal	Jun-Jul 2002

Many of the interim dates on the enclosed schedule are planning estimates at this time, in support of the mission-critical date of commencement of batch irradiation in the fall of 2007. We will continue to maintain close contact with your staff throughout this schedule and notify them promptly of any changes.

Following your review of this information, we would appreciate a response from you by 29 December 2000 regarding the following two issues.

First, understanding that NRC acceptance and completion of review of our submittals is subject to the acceptability of our input, we would appreciate your concurrence with our proposed schedule for planning purposes, or identification of any dates you feel are unreasonable. Subsequent to your concurrence, we would like to work with your staff to develop a more detailed milestone schedule leading to issuance of the construction authorization.

Second, as the CAR constitutes the first segment of the overall MFFF license application, we consider its submittal (along with that of the ER) to constitute compliance with 10 CFR §70.21(f), which requires license application submittal at least nine months prior to start of construction. We also request your concurrence with this position.

If I can provide any additional information, please feel free to contact me at (704) 373-7820 or pshastings@dukeengineering.com.

Sincerely,



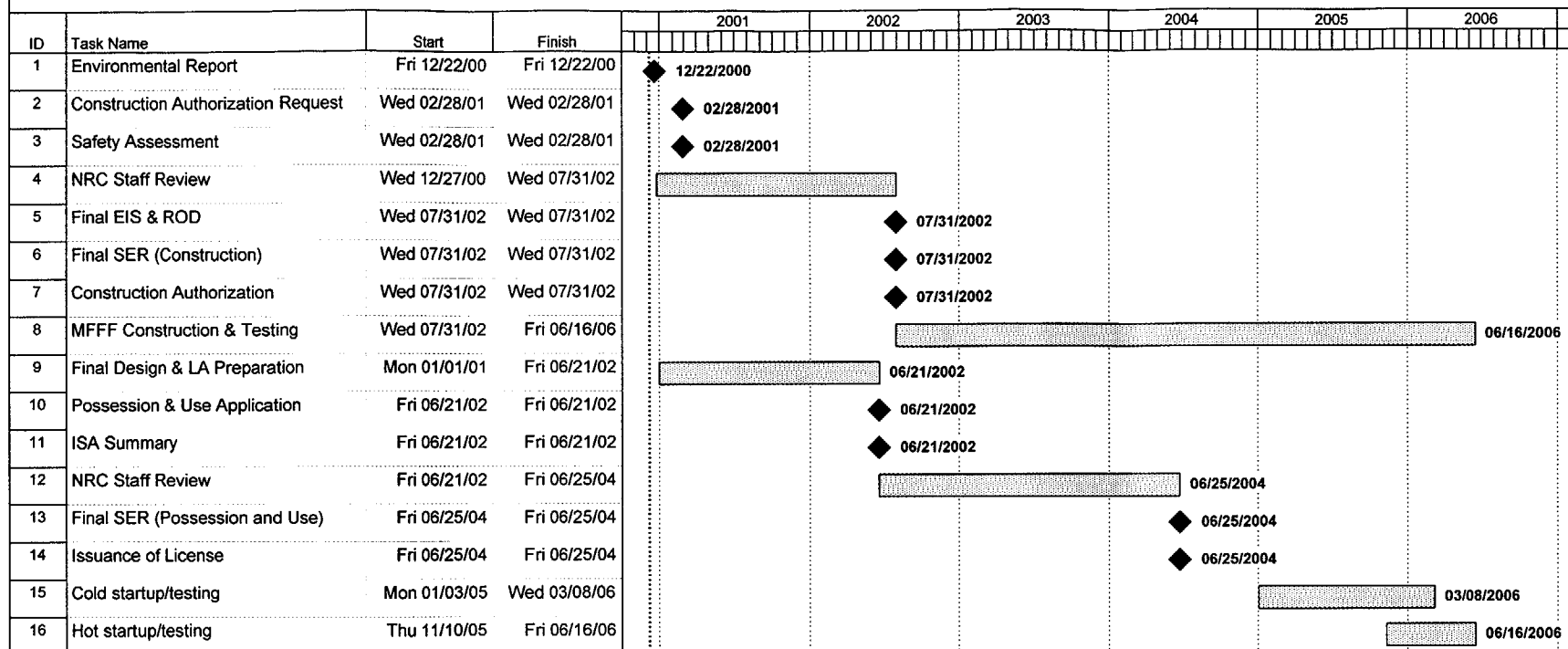
Peter S. Hastings, P.E.
Licensing Manager

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Enclosure: DCS Licensing Schedule

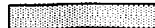
xc: Edward J. Brabazon, DCS
Melanie A. Galloway, USNRC
Robert H. Ihde, DCS
James V. Johnson, USDOE
Andrew Persinko, USNRC
PRA/EDMS: Corresp\Outgoing\NRC\Licensing\DCS-NRC-000028

**DUKE COGEMA STONE & WEBSTER
MIXED OXIDE FUEL FABRICATION FACILITY
LICENSING SCHEDULE**



INFORMATION ONLY
Date: Wed 12/06/00

Task



Milestone

