

From: <jsaldarini@fwenc.com>
To: "Matthew Blevins" <MXB6@nrc.gov>
Date: 5/8/03 2:50PM
Subject: Answers to your questions

Matt,

Attached find the responses to the questions you asked me last week.
Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

See you next week in Idaho Falls.

Jim

(See attached file: Responses to Matt Blevins Questions of 050103.doc)

Responses to Matt Blevins' Informal Questions Asked May 1, 2003

QUESTION NO. 1

Figure A-1 of SAR Appendix A notes that nine (9) Peach Bottom 1 fuel elements are presently located in Oak Ridge and will be shipped to the ISF Facility at a later date. Please clarify.

RESPONSE

Figure A-1 of SAR Appendix A is an INEEL document used by DOE-ID and its subcontractors to develop safety analyses and procedures for transporting Peach Bottom Core 1 fuel to the ISF site. As such, this figure included reference to all Peach Bottom Core 1 fuel for which DOE has jurisdiction and which may eventually be transported to the ISF site. The nine (9) Peach Bottom 1 fuel elements located in Oak Ridge are outside the present scope of the FWENC/DOE Contract as noted on Figure A-1 of SAR Appendix A and are also not within the scope of the FWENC ISF Facility License Application.

Reference: FWENC response to Environmental RAI 1-1 (FWENC Letter FW-NRC-ISF-03-0048 dated March 7, 2003)

QUESTION NO. 2

Regarding the soil survey performed at the ISF site, were grab samples or consolidated samples taken?

RESPONSE

A nonradiological soil contamination survey was performed by FWENC at the ISF site. Sixteen (16) grab samples from sixteen (16) separate locations were collected in the ISF work areas. These soil samples were collected using both a hand-auger and shovel and were taken from the ground surface to 1.5 feet below ground surface.

Reference: FWENC response to Environmental RAI 5-1 (FWENC Letter FW-NRC-ISF-03-0048 dated March 7, 2003)

QUESTION NO. 3

What activities have been or are being undertaken by the DOE to familiarize the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes with the proposed ISF Project?

RESPONSE (FROM DOE)

DOE-ID maintains open communications with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes at the Fort Hall Indian Reservation regarding the conduct of its mission and associated projects at the INEEL. Upon request, DOE-ID interacts and collaborates with the Tribes. This includes providing briefings, presentations, workshops, and holding public meetings associated with NEPA, State, and other regulatory processes. The protocol for communication, interaction and consultation between the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and DOE-ID is established in a formal Agreement in Principle.

Regarding the Idaho Spent Fuel (ISF) Project, a representative of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes was in attendance at the NRC public meeting with FWENC held in Idaho Falls, Idaho on July 31- August 1, 2002. DOE-ID also actively participated in this briefing. The purpose of the meeting was to familiarize the NRC staff and its reviewers with the affected environment surrounding the proposed ISF Facility.

DOE-ID intends to notify the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the release for comments of the NRC Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed ISF Facility, tentatively scheduled for issuance on June 23, 2003, and plans to offer a briefing to the Tribes early in the comment period and in advance of any NRC public meetings being contemplated. The briefing will include the project's purpose and need, status, and its environmental impacts as described in the Draft EIS. DOE-ID and FWENC will support the Tribes in requesting NRC participation in such a briefing/meeting, at the Tribes' behest.

Reference: ISF Facility Environmental Report, Section 2.6.2, Native American Cultural Resources