



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION IV

611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400  
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-8064

MAR 5 1993

MEMORANDUM FOR: Elinor G. Adensam, Acting Chief  
Licensing Branch  
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety  
and Safeguards, NMSS

FROM: L. J. Callan, Director  
Division of Radiation Safety and Safeguards

SUBJECT: PAST INTERACTIONS WITH EPA AND OSHA ON SFC

This responds to your memorandum to me of February 24, 1993, requesting information on past NRC interactions with EPA and OSHA on SFC.

Since August 1990, NRC has communicated with EPA and OSHA regarding concerns about General Atomics' Sequoyah Fuels Corporation (SFC). After SFC informed NRC about the discovery of uranium contaminated water in an open excavation for two underground tanks adjacent to SFC's Solvent Extraction (SX) building, a team of three EPA consultants arrived onsite while NRC's Augmented Inspection Team (AIT) was performing its reviews. The AIT communicated many of its findings with the EPA consultants, and with EPA Region 6 management. For some months following the inspection, the EPA consultants occasionally called NRC Region IV to receive updates into inspection activities and environmental concerns.

Also, in response to some complaints from certain contract workers that had been working in the SX excavation, NRC Region IV discussed its concerns about the potential for chemical exposures with OSHA.

Early during the facility environmental investigation, NRC Region IV management contacted EPA Region 6 management about environmental issues at SFC. This resulted in further communications between NRC and EPA and culminated with an NRC inspector accompanying EPA and state of Oklahoma inspectors reviewing hazardous waste issues at SFC in May 1991.

Further infrequent communications continued after that time. However, on February 7, 1992, NRC Region IV management and staff met with EPA Region 6 management and staff to discuss concerns of both agencies relative to SFC. Another meeting occurred between the two regional staffs on February 12, 1992.

EPA issued to SFC a draft Consent Order in November 1992. Subsequently, EPA requested a meeting with NRC to discuss the status of each agency's enforcement actions, and the meeting occurred on January 25, 1993. Individuals attending included representatives of NRC Division of Low-Level

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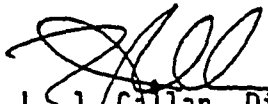
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Waste Management, NRC Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety, NRC Region IV, and EPA Region 6.

The following day, on January 26, 1993, EPA attended a meeting between the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and NRC. The ACOE had requested the meeting with NRC to discuss its concerns about potential contamination issues at SFC.

As for further communications with OSHA, NRC Region IV contacted OSHA for assistance in reviewing industrial safety at SFC. As a result, an OSHA inspector accompanied an NRC inspector during an inspection conducted September 30 through October 2, 1991. NRC Inspection Report 40-8027/91-14 documents the results of the inspection.

If there are any questions regarding this request, please do not hesitate to call Michael Vasquez or Chuck Cain at (817) 860-8100.

  
L. J. Callan, Director  
Division of Radiation Safety  
and Safeguards