

August 29, 2006

Dr. Keith E. Asmussen, Director
Licensing, Safety & Nuclear Compliance
General Atomics
P.O. Box 85608
San Diego, CA 92186-9784

SUBJECT: GENERAL ATOMICS AMENDMENT 86 - NOTIFICATION OF PERSONNEL
CHANGE IN GENERAL ATOMICS' MANAGEMENT ACCOMPANIED BY
REVISION OF THE SITE RADIOLOGICAL CONTINGENCY PLAN
(TAC L31940)

Dear Dr. Asmussen:

In accordance with your letters dated March 29 and July 26, 2006, and pursuant to Part 70 to Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Materials License SNM-696 is hereby amended to incorporate changes to your site Radiological Contingency Plan and to reflect organizational changes.

The March 29, 2006, letter notified the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) of the promotion of the incumbent Assistant General Counsel, Ms. Charlotte Engstrom, to Vice President and General Counsel. In addition, your letter dated July 26, 2006, updates your Radiological Contingency Plan to reflect this promotion and provide other minor personnel updates.

Based on our review of your submittals, the staff has determined that the upper management promotion and subsequent revisions to the site Radiological Contingency Plan do not decrease the effectiveness of the plan, and are therefore acceptable in accordance with 10 CFR 70.32(i).

Accordingly, Safety Condition S-1 has been revised to include the dates of March 29 and July 26, 2006. Safety Condition S-23 has also been revised to include the July 26, 2006, date for updates to the Emergency Plan. All other conditions of the license shall remain the same. Enclosed are copies of the revised Materials License SNM-696 (Enclosure 1) and the Safety Evaluation Report, which includes the Environmental Review (Enclosure 2).

This action closes TAC L31940.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Matt Bartlett at (301) 415-5754 or via e-mail to mab11@nrc.gov or Merritt N. Baker (Project Manager) at (301) 415-6155 or via e-mail to mnb@nrc.gov.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Gary S. Janosko, Chief
Fuel Cycle Facilities Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
and Safeguards
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket 70-734
License SNM-696
Amendment 86

Enclosures:

1. Materials License SNM-696
2. Safety Evaluation Report

cc:

Mr. John Fassell
State of California
Department of Health Services
Radiologic Health Branch Mail Stop 178
P.O. Box
Sacramento, CA

Dr. Ron Rogus
State of California
Department of Health Services
Radiologic Health Branch Mail Stop 178
P.O. Box
Sacramento, CA

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Sincerely,

/RA/

Gary S. Janosko, Chief
 Fuel Cycle Facilities Branch
 Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
 and Safeguards
 Office of Nuclear Material Safety
 and Safeguards

Docket 70-734
 License SNM-696
 Amendment 86

Enclosures:

1. Materials License SNM-696
2. Safety Evaluation Report

cc:

Mr. John Fassell
 State of California
 Department of Health Services
 Radiologic Health Branch Mail Stop 178
 P.O. Box
 Sacramento, CA

Dr. Ron Rogus
 State of California
 Department of Health Services
 Radiologic Health Branch Mail Stop 178
 P.O. Box
 Sacramento, CA

Closes TAC Nos. L31940

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OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Docket: 70-734

License: SNM-696

Licensee: General Atomics
San Diego, CA

Subject: SAFETY EVALUATION REPORT: AMENDMENT 86 - NOTIFICATION OF
PERSONNEL CHANGE IN GENERAL ATOMICS' MANAGEMENT
ACCOMPANIED BY REVISION OF THE SITE RADIOLOGICAL
CONTINGENCY PLAN (TAC L31940)

BACKGROUND:

By letter dated March 29, 2006, General Atomics (GA), holder of materials license SNM-696, informed the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) that a personnel change within the Office of the General Counsel had taken place. The letter clarified that the change promoted the incumbent Assistant General Counsel, Ms. Charlotte Engstrom, to the position of Vice President and General Counsel (VPGC). Ms. Engstrom has 5 years experience as Assistant General Counsel and has high level management experience, as well as advanced degrees.

In response to a Request for Additional Information, GA provided updated copies of Figures 4-1A , 4-1B, and page 3-1 of the site Radiological Contingency Plan, including names and phone numbers of relevant personnel in the emergency response and support staff via letter dated July 26, 2006.

DISCUSSION:

Ms. Engstrom has extensive high level management experience, one year of which is in the nuclear field at GA. Although the qualifications for the VPGC include 5 years of nuclear management experience, the NRC staff concludes that Ms. Engstrom is qualified for the new position based on her extensive high level general management experience and the current specifications in GA's license. The only activities authorized by materials license SNM-696 are those associated with decommissioning. Furthermore, there are no nuclear fuel manufacturing activities being conducted at GA, nor does GA have such capabilities. Amendment 76, dated March 13, 2003, amended GA's license to authorize possession only.

In addition, the VPGC position is supported by the Licensing, Safety and Nuclear Compliance Manager and the Health Physics Manager. These managers have been delegated the responsibility for implementing radiological and nuclear safety. Both individuals have over 20 years of experience at GA in their respective functions.

The requested change does not affect other positions named in the license, nor does it result in any changes to the licensee's existing safety requirements. There were no changes to the facility; no changes in procedures, equipment, or locations referenced in the license.

The staff determined that revisions to the site Radiological Contingency Plan, submitted on July 26, 2006, does not decrease the effectiveness of the Plan, and are therefore acceptable in accordance with 10 CFR 70.32(i).

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

The requested change involves updates to personnel information contained in the site Radiological Contingency Plan and is considered administrative in nature. The staff has determined that the change is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare a site-specific environmental assessment. Therefore, in accordance with 10 CFR 51.22(c)(11), neither an environmental assessment nor an environmental impact statement is warranted for this action.

CONCLUSION:

The NRC staff has reviewed the proposed management promotion and resultant revisions to the Radiological Contingency Plan. The staff has determined that the changes will have no adverse effect on the public health and safety or the environment. Therefore, the staff recommends approval of the amendment.

The Region IV inspection staff has no objection to this proposed action.

Principal Contributor:

Merritt N. Baker
Matt Bartlett