

September 11, 2006

MEMORANDUM TO: Keith I. McConnell, Director
Decommissioning Directorate
Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

Ho K. Nieh, Acting Director
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
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SUBJECT: DECOMMISSIONING RESEARCH AND TEST REACTORS
TRANSITION PLAN STATUS

On August 25, 2006, staff from the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS) and the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) met to discuss decommissioning research and test reactor (RTR) work that is well underway having completion dates beyond the October 1, 2006, the effective date of the transfer of all decommissioning RTR work from NRR to NMSS (item 3.F in RTR Transition Plan).. The objective of the meeting was to determine what work should be completed by NRR via a Technical Assistance Request (TAR) from NMSS. It was concluded that the following work should be completed by NRR:

- University of Washington: NRR staff is reviewing Final Status Survey Reports (FSSRs) via its contractor, Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) and it is expected that the license will be terminated in the first quarter FY07. Therefore, completion of this work will be supported by a (TAR) from NMSS to NRR. The TAR will not require any funding.
- Veteran's Administration Hospital: The decommissioning plan review is approximately fifty percent (50%) complete and should be completed within the

next 3-4 months. The review is being performed by the ORISE. The task has already been funded by NRR. Therefore, completion of this work will be supported by a TAR from NMSS to NRR with no additional funding.

- NASA: 1) There is much public attention to site contamination and there have been a number of public outreach efforts. Although NMSS will assume project management of the site starting October 1, 2006, there will be an extended period of NMSS-NRR project management overlap to assure a seamless transition. Therefore, completion of this work will be supported by a TAR from NMSS to NRR, with NRR charging to NMSS for the assistance provided. 2) ORISE is currently reviewing NASA's survey plan and will continue after NMSS assumes responsibility for the site on October 1, 2006. No additional funding from NMSS is needed.
- Waltz-Mill: A request for hearing has recently been submitted. Should the hearing request be granted, assistance from NRR would be needed to support the hearings and would be requested via a TAR.

The status of all transition plan items is provided in the attachment.

cc: Keith McConnell

Enclosure: Item 3.F in RTR Transition Plan

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Enclosure: Item 3.F in RTR Transition Plan

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Research and Test Reactor (RTR) and 4 Power Reactor Transition Plan

As described in SECY-06-0106, the staff concluded that it plans to transfer the project management and oversight responsibility for 2 decommissioning power reactors, 2 decommissioning early demonstration reactors, and 14 decommissioning research and test reactors (RTR) from the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) to the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS). The date of the transfer is October 1, 2006. Between now and September 30, 2006, NMSS and NRR staff will conduct activities to effect the transfer of 14 research and test reactors and 4 other reactors.

The transfer will occur in accordance with the following procedures:

- NMSS Policy and Procedures Letter 1-77, "Reactor Decommissioning Program Procedures for Interfacing with NRR"
- NRR Office Instruction COM-101, "NRR Interfaces with NMSS"

These documents are intended to apply to the transfer of commercial power plants and contain some information that is not applicable to the current transfer. For example, the documents contain "the roadmap" showing when a reactor transfers from NRR to NMSS. In the current case, the decision has already been made that the 14 decommissioning RTR's and 4 other decommissioning reactors would transfer on October 1, 2006. Therefore, information pertaining to when to transfer the reactors won't be applicable. However, much within the documents does apply to the transfer of RTR's. For example, these instructions provide, among other things, a checklist of staff activities to be accomplished to transfer decommissioning nuclear power plants from NRR to NMSS. They also contain an example memorandum to be used by each site/reactor to formally document the transfer.

Two of the 14 RTRs being transferred include two reactors (i.e., the General Atomic reactors) that still have fuel onsite. For these reactors, the staff must conduct security inspections and operator licensing. As discussed below, NRR will continue to conduct operator licensing activities for these reactors. The security inspections will be conducted by Regional staff with assistance from NRR and NSIR as necessary. NMSS will be the point of contact for licensing and the Regions will be the point of contact for inspections. Both NMSS and the Regions will request assistance as necessary via a Technical Assistance Request (TAR).

John Hickman is the overall NMSS lead in assuring that the items discussed in this plan are accomplished in time to transfer the RTR's and 4 power reactors to NMSS by October 1, 2006. Andrew Persinko will have the responsibility to determine if NMSS/Regions have completed the required actions prior to the transfer.

In addition to activities described in the above documents, other transfer activities include:

1. Communication Plan
 - A. - NMSS Decommissioning Directorate (DCD) staff will develop a final communication plan to communicate details of the RTR and Power Reactor transfer from NRR to NMSS to internal and external stakeholders.
(COMPLETE)

Enclosure

- Plan includes:

- a) participating on a Test, Research and Training Reactor (TRTR) monthly conference call **(7/31 - (Persinko/Hickman) (COMPLETE)**
- b) making a presentation at the annual TRTR meeting in September **(9/30 - Hickman) (Scheduled for 9/12 - 9/15);**
- c) posting a NRC news item on the NRC website describing the transfer **(8/31 - Hickman) and**
- d) update the decommissioning website information **(10/31 - DCD PM's) (COMPLETE).**

B. Meet and greet the TRTR on May 31. **(COMPLETE)**

2. Training

- A. DCD staff will attend RTR training provided by NRR on 5/15 - 5/19. **(COMPLETE)**
- B. Training manuals from the RTR class will be made available as self-study manuals. Inspector training will be conducted as described in section 4E below. **(9/30 - Hickman)**

3. Project Management

- A. DCD staff will identify project managers (PM) for each RTR and Power Reactor. **(COMPLETE)**
- B. NRR will identify its current project managers for each RTR and Power Reactor. **(COMPLETE)**
- C. DCD PM's will contact NRR PM's to discuss site-specific decommissioning issues and schedules. **(9/30 - DCD PM's) (In-Progress)**
- D. Although NRR will retain PM responsibility, DCD PM's will overlap PM activities with NRR PM's to effect a seamless transition on October 1, 2006. To this end, NRR PM's will contact DCD PM's to inform DCD PM's about any upcoming conference calls, site visits, inspections, and issues so that DCD PM's can participate. Further, DCD PM's will be on distribution for any documents issued by NRR regarding the RTR and Power Reactor decommissioning sites. **(NRR PM's) (In-Progress)**
- E. Write an introductory template letter with site-specific information left blank (NMSS) and send (NRR) the completed introductory letters to licensees and conduct site visits, budget permitting, for currently active sites or sites that will become active in FY07. **(9/30 DCD and NRR PM's) (Template COMPLETE)**
- F. Review ongoing work that has been well underway and that has a near-term completion date past October 1, 2006, to determine what work should be completed by NRR via a TAR from NMSS. **(9/30 - Persinko et.al. / Thomas et.al.) (COMPLETE)**
- G. The site summaries for the website are scheduled to be updated by 9/30 and thus will be updated by NRR PM's. **(9/30 - NRR PM's) (In-Progress)**

4. Inspections

- A. Regions will identify contacts for transition information. **(COMPLETE) (Contacts are: M Miller RI; J Cameron R III; B Spitzberg RIV)**
- B. NMSS/Regional staff will discuss decommissioning site specific inspection issues with NRR. NRR will provide the date of last inspection and ADAMS ML

accession number for inspections reports, and identify any recent (within two years) escalated enforcement actions. **(NRR PM's - 8/31) (COMPLETE)**

- C. NRR will inform NMSS PM's when future inspections already scheduled are

confirmed. NMSS PM's and Regional inspectors will attend, budget and schedules permitting. **(COMPLETE)**

- D. Security inspections will be scheduled and performed at sites with fuel onsite (i.e., two General Atomic reactors) by the Regions with assistance from NRR and NSIR as needed (currently, NRR performs security inspections). **(> October 1, 2006 - Regions)**

- E. NRR will provide its RTR inspector qualification requirements. Regions will review, compare to current inspector qualifications, and determine the qualifications that are necessary to perform decommissioning inspections. Inspectors will complete any additional training that is needed. Regions will determine if assistance is needed from NRR in performing inspections, and if so, it will be done via a TAR.

- a) assess training needs **(9/30 - Regions) (In-Progress)**
- b) schedule future inspections **(> October 2006) (Partially COMPLETE)**

- F. Complete a second turnover meeting with Regional inspectors and NRR inspectors. **(September) (M Miller RI; J Cameron R III; B Spitzberg RIV; NRR) (Scheduled for week of 9/25)**

5. Operator Licensing

- A. Operator licensing for those sites with fuel onsite will continue to be performed by NRR via a TAR from NMSS. **(No action).**

6. Administrative

- A. Contracts - DCD and NRR staff will review ORISE work and decide what work ORISE will continue to perform. **(8/31 - Persinko / Thomas) (COMPLETE)**

- B. DCD staff will:

- a) change internal distribution (i.e., RIDS);
- b) transfer the RTR service list for each RTR **(9/30 - Licensing Assistant (LA));**
- c) identify Planned Accomplishments Activity numbers for NMSS and create new TAC's to become effective on October 1, 2006. **(9/30 - LA / D. Orlando) (In-Progress);**
- d) transfer licensing boilerplates **(9/30 - LA);**
- e) identify any new measures for operation plan **(9/30 - Orlando)**

- C. Develop an RTR-specific Policy and Procedures Letter (P&PL), or revise the documents listed below as necessary to reflect the current transfer as well as future RTR transfers. This will be done in parallel with other transition activities, but won't be completed until after the transition occurs. **(> September) (Hickman / NRR PM / D. Orlando)**

- NMSS PP&L 1-77, "Reactor Decommissioning Program Procedures for Interfacing with NRR"

- NRR Office Instruction COM-101, "NRR Interfaces with NMSS"
- NRC Inspection Manual Chapter 2545, Decommissioning Power Reactor Inspection Program.

7. Overall Approach to Assistance

- A. On October 1, 2006, NMSS will assume the lead for project management and oversight for the 14 RTR's and the 4 other reactors. Any assistance from other NRC organizations will be accomplished as necessary via a TAR (e.g., potentially inspection assistance and reactor operator licensing which is currently performed by NRR). For planning purposes, a list of projected TARs in FY07 should be developed before September 30, 2006. **(9/30 - Regions / Persinko / Thomas - Hickman to consolidate) (In-Progress)**