

September 22, 2006

MEMORANDUM TO: Wilkins R. Smith
Project Management Section A
Licensing and Inspection Directorate
Division of High-Level Waste Repository Safety
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

FROM: Frank M. Akstulewicz, Acting Deputy Director **/RA/**
Licensing and Inspection Directorate
Division of High-Level Waste Repository Safety
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

SUBJECT: CERTIFICATION OF HIGH-LEVEL WASTE REPOSITORY
LICENSE TECHNICAL REVIEWER AND INSPECTOR
QUALIFICATIONS

I have determined, based on my review of your professional background, work experience, training, and education, that you meet the requirements for being qualified as a Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) high-level waste (HLW) technical reviewer and HLW repository inspector. You are qualified to perform HLW technical reviews for licensing and inspection activities for the HLW repository.

My review of your professional background indicates that you have 40 years of experience in process engineering, Quality Assurance (QA), inspection, material control and accounting, regulatory safety, and project management in the nuclear industry and at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) including:

1. Eight years at the NRC, during which you have been certified as a Material Control and Accounting (MC&A) Inspector, and have served on and led numerous NRC audit observations and field reviews of the Department of Energy (DOE) Yucca Mountain project and inspections of fuel cycle applicants and licensees. Over the past seven years, you have also been the lead licensing technical reviewer for QA and management measures on the MOX, Tank Waste Remediation System, and gas centrifuge projects, and the gaseous diffusion plants. You have led in-office reviews of the MOX applicants' QA program and management measures' implementation in the U.S. and France. You served as the lead for inspection program development and the lead QA specialist on the proposed Yucca Mountain Waste Repository project; performed reviews of DOE QA, corrective action and design control programs and management plans; reviewed the DOE QA program description; and led several NRC audit observer teams. At the request of DOE, you prepared eight hour tutorials on U.S. nuclear QA and configuration management, including the history of industry and regulatory development, current regulatory requirements and lessons learned, and their application to current nuclear materials regulatory actions, and presented it to the Russian nuclear fuel safety regulators (GAN) in Moscow.

2. Your 32 years experience in industry, includes 10 years with nuclear fuel fabricators in process and QA engineering and MC&A. You were a certified lead auditor per ANSI N45.2.23 and NQA-1 for over 20 years.

3. During your 22 years as a consultant to nuclear utilities, fuel cycle facilities and DOE, you have served as QA manager, project manager, and project engineer for numerous programs in the areas of nuclear fuel fabrication and design, environmental management, procurement QA, MC&A, waste remediation and technology development.

Your formal education includes a Bachelor of Ceramic Engineering Degree. You have completed numerous NRC inspection, project management, risk analysis and technical training courses, and have been certified as a Quality Engineer and a Quality Manager by the American Society for Quality. Your NRC training includes Licensing and Evaluation of a High-Level Waste Geologic Repository, H-415, Risk Assessment in NMSS, P400, Quantitative Risk Assessment, P403, Human Error Analysis/Human Reliability Analysis, P406, and Nuclear Chemistry (Hanford - Chemistry 529). Since 2000, you have been the NRC representative on the Applications Subcommittee of the Nuclear QA Committee of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. You have demonstrated knowledge and application of NRC requirements, policies, Management Directives, guidance and procedures, and office and division procedures in your many technical and management reviews, and QA and inspection assignments. Your formal education, together with your course work and your extensive work at NRC, provide substantial evidence of your capability to perform technical reviews and inspection activities on high-level waste disposal work at NRC.

Thus, through an evaluation of your employment history and educational background, review of your work products and results, and observation on work assignments and during internal and public technical and management meetings, I have concluded that you understand and have satisfied the training and qualification requirements described in NRC Inspection Manual Chapter 1246 (IMC 1246), "Formal Qualification Programs in the Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards Program Area," Appendix A Section XIV and Appendix B Section XIV dated May 5, 2006, and that you have the necessary skills and experience to perform assigned technical review, project management, QA, and inspection activities to which you have been assigned. Therefore, you are hereby qualified to perform HLW technical reviews and inspection activities.

2. Your 32 years experience in industry, includes 10 years with nuclear fuel fabricators in process and QA engineering and MC&A. You were a certified lead auditor per ANSI N45.2.23 and NQA-1 for over 20 years.

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NAME	KChang	FAkstulewicz
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