

September 14, 2007

MEMORANDUM TO: Michael Tschiltz, Acting Deputy Director  
Fuel Facility Licensing Directorate  
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety  
and Safeguards  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

THRU: Peter Habighorst, Chief /RA/  
Fuel Manufacturing Branch  
Fuel Facility Licensing Directorate  
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety  
and Safeguards  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

FROM: Mary Adams, Senior Project Manager /RA/  
Fuel Manufacturing Branch  
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety  
and Safeguards  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

SUBJECT: GENERAL ATOMICS DECOMMISSIONING STATUS MEETING,  
AUGUST 8-9, 2007

On Wednesday and Thursday, August 8-9, 2007, the Fuel Manufacturing Branch staff met with General Atomics (GA) staff and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) staff to discuss remaining actions toward termination of SNM-696. The attendees were: Mary Adams, of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC); Dr. Keith Asmussen and Laura Gonzales of GA; Dr. Ronald Rogus and Jeffrey Wong of CDPH; and Ron Yonemitsu of the San Diego County Department of Public Health. This was a Category II public meeting, announced on the NRC's public meeting web site. No members of the public were present at the meeting.

Ms. Adams described the reorganization of the Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards Division into the new NMSS and new Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Programs (FSME), and indicated that the GA reactor decommissioning was being managed through the Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection (DWMEP) in FSME.

CONTACT: Mary Adams, FCSS  
(301) 492-3113

Dr. Rogus described the reorganization of the California Department of Health Services into a new California Department of Public Health. Senate Bill 162 established a California Department of Public Health (CDPH) within the existing Health and Human Services Agency, and statutorily transferred certain responsibilities from the California Department of Health

Services (CDHS) to the new CDPH, effective July 1, 2007. At the same time, CDHS was renamed as the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). The Radiologic Health Branch is located in the Center for Environmental Health, Division of Food, Drug, and Radiation Safety.

Dr. Rogus said that former Governor Gray Davis issued an executive order several years ago for the CDPH to issue a proposed license termination rule, in response to the Committee to Bridge the Gap and Physicians for Social Responsibility lawsuit about California's adopting 10 CFR Part 20 Subpart E. The plaintiff's basis for the lawsuit was that California had adopted NRC's license termination rule without following the California Environmental Quality Act. That proposed rule has not been issued yet, so California does not have explicit license termination criteria. License termination decisions are being made on a case-by-case basis. California will continue to release portions of the GA site from the license using the NRC- and CDPH-approved decommissioning plan criteria. GA does not intend to terminate the state license.

The major remaining area of the site, to be released from the California license and the NRC license is Phase IV/V of Building 30/31. Dr. Rogus said that he needs to evaluate and resolve some differences between GA's final status survey data for these Phases of the building and California's confirmatory survey data for the same Phases before he can release those areas of the site from the California license. Dr. Rogus also suggested that the regulators and licensee have another meeting before NRC terminates SNM-696.

The participants walked to what remains of Building 30/31 and to the Building 21 Yard. Most of Building 30/31 is being used for storage of surplus office furniture and other equipment. GA has scraped 1-3 feet of soil from the Building 21 Yard and sent the soil to disposal at Nevada Test Site. The Building 21 Yard is clean to less than 10% of the release criteria in the NRC- and CDPH-approved decommissioning plan for SNM-696. GA will review 10 CFR 50.83, release of part of a power reactor facility or site for unrestricted use, and NUREG-1836, "Standard Review Plan For Releasing Part Of a Reactor Facility or Site For Unrestricted Use Before Approval Of the License Termination Plan (NUREG-1836)" - Draft Report For Comment, for their usefulness in releasing the Building 21 Yard for unrestricted use.

The participants went over Table S-1, which lists all building, land areas, and tanks that have been released from the NRC and state licenses, and those that remain. The state renewed the broad scope license for GA in October 2006, which includes Building 2 and Building 30/31. This renewed license is only for GA's use of radioactive materials, not for tenants in the Building 2 laboratories. GA has requested a license amendment to allow GA to use the materials at job sites other than LaJolla.

The NRC and state staff were introduced to Charlotte Engstrom, the new Vice President and General Counsel, replacing Randall Walti. Future GA correspondence should be addressed to Atty. Engstrom.

Ms. Adams said that NRC will probably do a Material Control and Accounting Inspection before terminating the license, to assure that all NRC-licensed materials have been removed from the site, or otherwise accounted for.

During the review of Table S-1, Ms. Adams noted that Room 101, the nuclear calibration laboratory, of Building 30/31, has a drain line under the floor that has not been released from the NRC license. GA does not intend to release Room 101 from the state license because GA will continue to use the laboratory. Ms. Adams asked how Room 101 and the drain line can be released from SNM-696. GA will re-examine the history of use of radioactive materials in this drain line to see if it can be released as a non-impacted area. If not, GA will develop an alternative proposal for Room 101 and the drain line.

The meeting ended about 5 pm on August 9, 2007.

Enclosures: Site photograph, figures, and tables.

Docket No.: 70-734

License No.: SNM-696

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