

June 2, 2010

MEMORANDUM TO: Gregory Suber, Chief
Low-Level Waste Branch
Environmental Protection
and Performance Assessment Directorate
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

FROM: Nishka Devaser, Project Manager **/RAI/**
Low-Level Waste Branch
Environmental Protection
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Division of Waste Management
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Office of Federal and State Materials
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SUBJECT: APRIL 19, 2010, MEETING SUMMARY: MEETING TO DISCUSS
COMMENTS MADE BY THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY
COMMISSION REGARDING THE UPDATED SALTSTONE
PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

On April 19, 2010, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) met with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) by telephone to discuss the recently submitted Request for Additional Information (RAI) pertaining to the NRC's review of the 2009 Performance Assessment of the Saltstone Disposal Facility. The meeting was open to the public via teleconference.

The purpose of the meeting was for the DOE and its contractor, Savannah River Remediation (SRR) to ask questions of the NRC staff and its contractors pertaining to recently submitted comments on NRC's review of the 2009 Saltstone Performance Assessment (PA). The comments discussed are available on the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS), which provides text and image files of NRC's public documents. The accession number for the comments is ML100820097.

A summary of the discussion and list of attendees can be found in the attachments. A draft copy of this summary was provided to DOE to allow them opportunity to comment prior to the summary being issued.

Enclosure: Meeting Summary

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(301) 415-5196

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ML101440307

OFC	DWMEP:PM	DWMEP:LA	DWMEP:BC	DWMEP:BC	DWMEP:PM
NAME	NDevaser	AWalkerSmith	CMcKenney	GSuber	NDevaser
DATE	05/24/10	05/28/10	05/27/10	06/1/10	06/2/10

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Summary of Meeting with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Regarding U.S. Nuclear Regulatory (NRC) Commission Monitoring Activities at the Savannah River Site, Saltstone Facility

RAI Comment	Question or Comment	NRC Response
Air Pathway AP-1	<p>SRR: Is the NRC taking a change of approach to reviewing flux performance in the presence of Radon?</p> <p>SRR: Does the NRC have any recommended methodologies for expected dose calculation from Radon pathway?</p> <p>Saporito: Does NRC have a list of specific bounding parameters?</p>	<p>The dose requirement in Part 61 has always included radon, but staff is increasing attention to the radon dose in this review as compared to the 2005 Saltstone review because the inventory of radon parents is significantly greater in the revised PA than it was in the 2005 PA. Thus it appears radon dose may be more risk-significant in this PA than it was in the 2005 PA. In addition, after the subject teleconference, the NRC staff provided to DOE interim guidance on this topic. This guidance can be found on ADAMS at accession number ML100250501</p> <p>NRC staff does not have one particular approach in mind, many approaches may be acceptable. If SRS finds the expected dose from radon is low, it could be simpler to take a bounding approach. Subsequently, NRC indicated to SRS that it had sent SRS relevant interim guidance related to depleted uranium.</p> <p>No, NRC does not have a list of bounding parameters, but it is often possible to select values of specific parameters that are considered bounding because they could not reasonably be expected to have a larger or smaller value that would cause a larger dose.</p>

Enclosure

RAI Comment	Question or Comment	NRC Response
Infiltration and Erosion Control IEC-6	SRR: If SRS clarified that the hydraulic conductivity of the foundation layer is a design specification and that the final cap design is not yet complete, would this respond to the NRC's concern?	Yes, this would respond to the NRC's concern.
Performance Assessment PA-6	SRR: Would providing and clarifying modeling limitations satisfy the NRC's concern with respect to run times beyond or far beyond the performance period?	Yes, this would respond to the NRC's concern.
All Comments Dose Calculations by GoldSim	SRR: GoldSim has had no radionuclide screening performed. All of the radionuclides considered in the PA were included in GoldSim simulations. Reduced lists were only used in PORFLOW.	This will aid in the NRC's review of the GoldSim and PORFLOW codes.
All Comments	SRR: Please note that answers to some of the NRC's comments are available in the GoldSim and PORFLOW modeling codes provided in January 2010.	Yes, there are two reasons NRC staff may ask questions about information that is available in the models. First, because the codes were submitted as proprietary information, the public does not have access to the information in the codes. Thus the NRC staff may ask a question so that the answer will become public information if the response is important to our review. Second, the NRC staff has not fully completed its review of the modeling codes, which were provided after the PA itself. The staff is working to complete this review and acknowledges that some comments could have been reduced by completing the code review. In addition, completion of the code review may result in the NRC staff having more questions.

Meeting Attendees

A. Christianne Ridge	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Christopher McKenney	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
George Alexander	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Gregory Suber	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Nishka Devaser	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Chun Pang	U.S. Department of Energy
Linda Suttora	U.S. Department of Energy
David Pickett	Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses
Gary Walter	Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses
Lane Howard	Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses
Roberto Pabalan	Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses
F. Malcolm Smith	Savannah River Remediation
Kent Rosenberger	Savannah River Remediation
Mark Layton	Savannah River Remediation
Steve Thomas	Savannah River Remediation
Tom Robinson	Savannah River Remediation
Thomas Saporito	Endangered Planet Earth