

SAFETY EVALUATION REPORT

DOCKET: 70-1257

LICENSEE: AREVA NP, Inc.
Richland, Washington

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO AMEND LICENSE NO. SNM-1227 – AUTHORIZATION TO CHANGE LICENSE APPLICATION WITHOUT NRC PRE-APPROVAL AND CHANGES TO CHAPTER 1.0, “GENERAL INFORMATION” AND CHAPTER 2.0, “ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION.”

BACKGROUND

In a letter dated February 13, 2012, AREVA NP, Inc. (AREVA), submitted a request to add a special authorization to Chapter 1.0, “General Information” which would allow AREVA to make changes to its license application (LA) without U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) pre-approval. In addition, AREVA requested minor changes to Chapter 2.0, “Organization and Administration” of the LA. This change will revise the management organization structure.

DISCUSSION

The licensee requested a special authorization section in Chapter 1.0, which would define the types of changes that could be made to text in the LA without prior approval by the NRC as follows:

- the change does not decrease the level of effectiveness of the design basis as described in the LA;
- the change does not result in a departure from the methods of evaluation described in the LA used in establishing the design basis;
- the change does not result in a degradation of safety;
- the change does not adversely impact regulatory compliance with other license conditions;
- the change is supported by a written technical/safety justification that includes management’s approval and is maintained onsite for NRC inspection; and
- within six months after each change is made, the licensee would submit the revised chapters of the LA to the Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, using an appropriate method listed in Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 70.5(a), and a copy to the appropriate NRC Regional Office.

Staff reviewed this amendment request using the applicable guidance in NUREG-1520, “Standard Review Plan for the Review of a LA for a Fuel Cycle Facility,” and Regulatory Guidance 3.4, “Guidance for Fuel Cycle Facility Change Process” and confirmed that the LA contains commitments to ensuring operations are conducted safely and in compliance with all regulations.

The proposed addition, including the timeframe for reporting changes, is reasonable and consistent with the process for making changes in 10 CFR 70.72. It is noted that a similar condition was approved for the Mixed Oxide Fabrication Facility as documented in the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession Number ML103430615.

In the aforementioned amendment request, AREVA requests revisions to Chapter 2.0 by reorganizing their management structure. Currently, the Maintenance Function reports to the

Operations Manager; but with the proposed action, the Maintenance Function will report directly to the Site Manager or jointly with the Plant Projects Function Manager, also reporting to the Site Manager.

The administrative structure of AREVA consists of a Site Manager that has the ultimate responsibility for ensuring operations utilizing special nuclear material (SNM) are conducted in a manner that is protective of its workers, the public, and the surrounding environment, and remain in compliance with applicable regulations, licenses and permits. The Maintenance Function will now report directly to the Site Manager, as will the Plant Projects Function Manager and the Operation Manager. Please refer to Figure 2.1 of the license amendment for the updated Organizational Chart. The requested change does not alter any of the regulatory requirements; it will only rearrange the reporting relationships at the management levels. NRC staff agrees that the proposed change will not adversely impact the safe utilization of SNM at the Richland site.

The NRC staff reviewed the license amendment and concludes that AREVA has an acceptable organization; administrative policies; and sufficient, competent resources that provide reasonable assurance of adequate safety for the fuel fabrication activities. Therefore, the NRC staff concludes that the information provided by AREVA meets the applicable requirements in 10 CFR 70.22, 10 CFR 70.33 and 10 CFR 70.72 and is, therefore, acceptable.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The staff has determined that the other changes requested are related to administrative matters which do not: (1) result in a significant change to the types or amounts of any effluents, (2) result in a significant increase in an individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure, (3) result in any construction impact, or (4) significant increase in the potential for or consequences from radiological accidents, and are therefore in accordance with 10 CFR 51.22(c)(11) categorically excluded from the requirements to prepare a site-specific Environmental Assessment.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Based on the review and evaluation of the licensee's submittal, the staff has determined that the proposed changes to the LA are administrative in nature and the commitments in the LA continue to ensure effective programs at the AREVA facility. Approval of the amendment request is recommended.

PRINCIPAL CONTRIBUTORS

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