

August 17, 2012

Mr. Joel G. Himsl
Garrison Manager – Rock Island Arsenal
U.S. Department of the Army
IMNE-RIA-ZA
1 Rock Island Arsenal
Rock Island, Illinois 61299-5000

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO ARMY EXTENSION REQUEST OF MAY 2, 2012,
CONCERNING JEFFERSON PROVING GROUND DECOMMISSIONING PLAN

Dear Mr. Himsl:

This letter responds to the U.S. Department of the Army's (Army's) May 2, 2012, license amendment for a 20-month extension to submit the Decommissioning Plan and Environmental Report for materials license number SUB-1435 for the Jefferson Proving Ground (JPG) site in Madison, Indiana. License Condition 13 of the JPG materials license required that a Decommissioning Plan be submitted no later than December 31, 2011. The Army is now proposing an alternate schedule for the submittal of this plan.

In a U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) letter to the Army dated April 2, 2012, following an initial request for an extension dated November 28, 2011, the Army was asked to address the following:

- Explain why the extension request is necessary to the effective conduct of decommissioning operations, that the extension presents no undue risk from radiation to the public health and safety, and why the extension is otherwise in the public interest.
- In October 2009, the Army submitted Addendum 8 to its Field Sampling Plan (FSP). The Army should update its FSP and explain how this updated FSP will generate the site characterization information needed to support a decommissioning plan to be submitted within the extended timeframe. The Army should identify any deviations in scope and schedule to the activities identified in that updated FSP from the earlier FSP. For example, has there been a delay in the initiation and/or completion of previously identified tasks? If so, an explanation should be provided as to the reason(s) for the delay(s) and how they now impact the overall development of a decommissioning plan.
- Explain why any extension request, if granted, would satisfy the requirements of a categorical exclusion provision and not require additional environmental review beyond what is currently called for in the license, consistent with the NRC's regulation at 10 CFR 51.22©(14)(xv), or failing that, submit an environmental report pertaining to the extension request.

The staff has reviewed the license application and references submitted and found the application acceptable for detailed technical and environmental review. Please note that the

detailed technical and environmental review may identify issues that require additional information.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice for Domestic Licensing Proceedings and Issuance of Orders," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

If you have any questions concerning this letter, contact Tom McLaughlin, the Project Manager for the JPG site. He can be reached at (301) 415-5869 or Thomas.McLaughlin@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Paul Michalak, Branch Chief
Materials Decommissioning Branch
Decommissioning and Uranium Recovery
Licensing Directorate
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

Docket No.: 40-8838
License No.: SUB-1435

cc:
Richard Hill, Save the Valley, Inc.
Dr. Robert Cherry, U.S. Army

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