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June 11, 2015

ATTN: Document Control Desk
Director, Spent Fuel Project Office
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Subject: PURSUANT TO 10 CFR 71.95

References:

1. Nuclear Waste Partnership LLC Letter CP:14:01232 from T. E. Sellmer to Director, Spent Fuel Project Office, USNRC, dated October 1, 2014, subject: Report Pursuant to 10 CFR 71.95.
2. U.S. Department of Energy Office of Environmental Management, Accident Investigation Report, Phase 2 Radiological Release Event at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, February 14, 2014, dated April 2015.

Dear Ms. Akhavannik:

Nuclear Waste Partnership (NWP) LLC, on behalf of the U.S. Department of Energy Carlsbad Field Office (DOE/CBFO), submits this letter as a supplement to the description of the corrective actions planned as a result of the condition reported in Reference 1 pursuant to 10 CFR 71.95 regarding the use of the Type B packaging model TRUPACT-II. The package operates under the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Certificate of Compliance (CofC) No. 9218.

As stated in Item (4) of Reference 1:

"There is currently a root cause analysis in process which will result in an approved corrective action plan that will address recurrence prevention of all identified non-compliances."

A primary component of the root cause analysis was the appointment of a Phase 2 Accident Investigation Board (AIB) by the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Safety, Security, and Quality Assurance Programs for the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Environmental Management, to determine the cause of the airborne radiological release that occurred on February 14, 2014, at the U.S. Department of Energy Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) near Carlsbad, New Mexico. The investigation (Phase 2) was performed once limited access to the underground repository was re-established and focused on how the radiological material was released. The Board was appointed to perform an accident investigation and to prepare an investigation report in accordance with DOE Order 225.1B, Accident Investigations. The Phase 2 final report of the AIB was released on April 16, 2015 (Reference 2). The report lists Conclusions (CONs), derived from the analytical results performed during this accident investigation for determining what happened and why it happened, and Judgments of Need (JONs) "based on objective analysis and application of the core analytical techniques using the facts to develop the root and contributing causes."

The Central Characterization Program (CCP) under NWP has developed a corrective action plan in response to the AIB Phase 2 Report CONs and JONs. The purpose of this letter is to summarize the corrective actions being taken by CCP and NWP, in combination with those specified in Reference 1, that will prevent recurrence of the conditions described in Reference 1.

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These supplemental corrective actions are as follows:

- Revision of the procedure directing the acceptable knowledge (AK) documentation preparation, review and approval (CCP-TP-005). This incorporates the addition of a new assessment for waste streams to ensure documentation relating to the management of potentially energetic TRU waste streams (reactive, ignitable, and incompatible materials) is adequate, current, and accurately described. Review elements of this assessment include waste generation, packaging, treatment, remediation, and characterization, focusing on the use of absorbents, immobilization products, and neutralization reagents for the waste stream, as well as, special testing and management activities associated with suspect materials (e.g., unknown chemical or liquids). The revised procedure will formalize AK briefings, and require the preparation of a chemical compatibility memorandum. AK summary reports will be reviewed by a broader cross-section of disciplines.
- Revision of Site Interface Documents to clearly delineate the roles and responsibilities of CCP and the Host site, which will place more stringent controls on the review and approval of AK source documents that relate to characterization of the waste. The revised Site Interface Documents will include a more comprehensive list of documents that must be maintained in CCP's System of Controls and a more formalized approach to communication, coordination, review, and approvals that will control potential impacts of the generation of secondary waste items within a waste stream.
- Training personnel to revised plan, procedure, and processes to implement changes to the TRU waste characterization program.

In addition to the corrective actions described in Reference 1, implementation of the above corrective actions will prevent recurrence of the reportable condition identified in Reference 1. Gaps in the flow of information (e.g., notifications to the CH-TRU Payload Engineer of process changes, site and CCP documentation of any process changes) will be eliminated and waste forms requiring remediation (e.g., removal of oxidizer properties) will have adequate documentation, review, oversight and proof of remediation completed as part of a formalized process.

If you have any questions or require additional information regarding this supplemental information, please contact me at 575-234-7396.

Sincerely,



T. E. Sellmer, Manager
Packaging and Information System
National TRU Program

TES:jmc

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