



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

January 24, 2018

MEMORANDUM TO: Cinthya I. Román, Chief
Environmental Review Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety, Safeguards
and Environmental Review
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

FROM: Jessie Quintero, Environmental Project Manager ~~IRA~~
Environmental Review Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety, Safeguards
and Environmental Review
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF TELECONFERENCE WITH SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL
RELATED TO THE UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY
COMMISSION'S REVIEW OF WESTINGHOUSE'S COLUMBIA
FUEL FABRICATION FACILITY LICENSE RENEWAL
APPLICATION

On December 13, 2017, the staff from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) held a teleconference to discuss the NRC's review of Westinghouse Electric Company's (WEC) license renewal application for its Columbia Fuel Fabrication Facility (CFFF) and SCDHEC's ongoing Voluntary Cleanup Contract (VCC) and its review of WEC's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) renewal application. Participants on the call included: Ms. Addie Walker, Mr. Bryon Amick with SCDHEC, and Ms. Jessie Quintero with the NRC.

Call Summary

Ms. Quintero, the NRC's Environmental Project Manager, gave a brief status of the NRC's environmental review, under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), for WEC's license renewal application to allow CFFF to operate for 40 years. The NRC staff is preparing a draft

CONTACT: Jessie Quintero, NMSS/FCSE
(301)415-7476

Environmental Assessment to submit to SCDHEC for their review and comment. However, the NRC staff learned of a 2011 pipe leak and breach that released uranium into the soil beneath a building. WEC did not report the leak to the NRC nor SCDHEC because reporting threshold were not exceeded. The NRC explained that the 2011 pipe leak was not discussed in WEC's application (Agencywide Documents Access and Management Systems [ADAMS] Accession Number ML14352A111) nor in the reports prepared by its contractor (e.g., 2013 Remedial Investigation Report (ADAMS Accession No. ML16166A141), 2014 Preliminary Baseline Risk Assessment (ADAMS Accession No. ML17275A619). As a result, the NRC staff had to ask for Requests for Additional Information to get information on the leak (ADAMS Accession No. ML17340B339).

Ms. Walker, SCDHEC coordinator for the VCC, provided a summary and status of the VCC. SCDHEC has approved the 2013 Remedial Investigation Report. SCDHEC has not formally commented on the 2014 Preliminary Baseline Risk Assessment. The VCC covers only volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Gross alpha and gross beta are included in the NPDES permit since it was assumed that the wastewater treatment plant and lagoons were the source of gross alpha and gross beta contamination in the ground water. WEC is almost at the end of the "Response Action" Section of the VCC (pg. 5). The VCC is online at: http://www.scdhec.gov/HomeAndEnvironment/Docs/cleanupPrograms/4948_51377_rpvcc.pdf. WEC is scheduled to provide the results of the field screening on December 15, 2017 (Task "B" on pg. 5) as well as a proposal for installation of new monitoring wells for the VOC plume. Once SCDHEC reviews and approves the proposal, WEC will be required to install the new wells and begin monitoring. Ms. Walker said because of the size of the plume, the size of the property, and concentrations, WEC will most likely be required to monitor, using monitored natural attenuation, instead of remediation to address the VOC plume.

Mr. Amick, SCDHEC coordinator for WEC's NPDES permit, stated that the renewal application had recently been submitted by WEC. The current NPDES permit is scheduled to expire in March, 2018. Mr. Amick stated that they had received a presentation on well sufficiency and plume analysis from EARTHCon (the same presentation the NRC had received). Mr. Amick suggested that NRC contact its project hydrologist to understand more about the SCDHEC's understanding of contaminant plumes.

Ms. Quintero asked Mr. Amick about questions the NRC had received from the National Marines Fisheries Service about whether the NPDES permit limits were protective of sturgeon. Mr. Amick stated that the permit rationale for WEC's NPDES permit did include consideration of endangered species. SCDHEC did work with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources when developing the NPDES limit. For example, juvenile sturgeon are susceptible to low dissolved oxygen (DO) levels and so the DO limits in the NPDES permit considered the sturgeon. Mr. Amick stated that the NPDES permit and discharge, as well as storm water outfalls did not consider groundwater contamination. Mr. Amick said for more information on the storm water permit, to reach out to Mr. Mel Leaphart, who is the coordinator in the Bureau of Water within SCDHEC.

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OFFICE	FCSE/ERB	FCSE/ERB	FCSE/ERB
NAME	JQuintero	AWalker-Smith	CRomán
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