



Federal Emergency Management Agency

Washington, D.C. 20472

PT-SL

Mr. Charles W. Hehl
Director
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region I
475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406-1415

Dear Mr. Hehl:

The following status report is provided per your request and covers the months of September and October, 1996.

An outline of the draft Termination Plan for the National Instrumentation Center (NIC) is provided as Enclosure 1. Specific status reports on particular elements of the Termination Plan are provided as Enclosure 2. Although this Plan has not been approved, as of this date, by FEMA management, specific actions contained in the Plan have been approved for implementation including: re-assignment of NIC staff and disposal of radioactive (primarily low-level) sources. The final, approved Termination Plan will be sent to you once it is approved by FEMA management.

Thank you for your thorough and timely response to the set of questions I posed to you as a spokesperson for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Based on your guidance with respect to Radiation Safety Officers (RSO), I want to inform you that we will forward a request to you soon to amend our license (as well as our Agency policy for our Radiation Control Committee) to designate U.S. Army contractual staff to be a single, integrated Agency-NIC RSO until such time that all of our radioactive sources are removed from the NIC, environmental surveys are completed and our license with the Commission is terminated. Until our license is amended to incorporate the U.S. Army-RSO function, our current RSO's (Mr. Jose Cortes-Agency; Mr. Robert Koslow-NIC) will function in these capacities.

Also, I would like to thank you and your staff for arranging to have Mr. Mark Roberts of the Commission to participate in our Radiation Control Committee meeting held on November 1, 1996. Mr. Roberts participated by telephonic conference call and addressed a number of concerns related to Commission expectations for the de-commissioning of the NIC. Per Mr. Robert's suggestion, we will follow through with additional contacts with Mr. Frank Costello concerning Commission de-commissioning requirements.

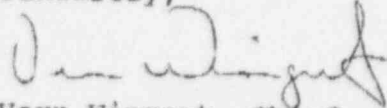
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Finally, I wish to inform you that I will no longer function as the Chair of the Radiation Control Committee (RCC) due to a recent internal FEMA re-organization. Mr. Philip McIntire will assume the role of RCC Chair on November 15, 1996. Also, Mr. McIntire will provide monthly reports to you on the status of the closure of the NIC.

I would be happy to discuss any questions or concerns that you or your staff may have concerning this letter. I can be reached at 202-646-2872.

Sincerely,



Vern Wingert, Chief
Technical Services Branch

Docket No. 030-07130
License No. 08-01297-06

Enclosures (2)

cc: Robert P. Fletcher, Jr. (PT-SL)
Elaine Chan (OGC)

Enclosure 1**SUMMARY OF DRAFT NATIONAL INSTRUMENTATION CENTER (NIC)
TERMINATION PLAN**

1. **NIC Termination Plan completed**
 - o Director Witt's decision to close NIC (8/15/96)
 - o Director Witt requested that all NIC staff be re-assigned by 9/29/96
 - o Director Witt requested that NIC Termination Plan be developed by 9/16/96
2. **Re-assignment of all 13 NIC staff (re-assignment completed)**
 - o 12 of 13 staff assigned to new responsibilities at Mt. Weather by 9/29/96.
 - o 1 staff will be responsible for implementing the Termination Plan for the NIC with Headquarters and Mt. Weather staff support.
3. **Mt. Weather component of Plan**
 - o Addresses support to WHMO, Mt. Weather Management Division (MWMD)/Regional Offices, Mobile Emergency Response System (MERS) and Radiological Emergency Response Operations (RERO) courses
 - o All radiological resources for Mt. Weather managed by the MWMD (Ken Schmidt)
 - o No actual radioactive sources will be permanently retained from the NIC at Mt. Weather (will contract with the State of Ohio and probably the U.S. Army for radiological maintenance and calibration services)
 - o It is anticipated that EMI will contract with the U.S. Army to provide radioactive training source sets to support the RERO courses. The sources will be permanently stored at a nearby Army base and brought to Mt. Weather on a temporary basis for use in training activities. This action was approved by the FEMA Radiation Control Committee.
 - o FEMA will rely upon a combination of use of actual radioactive materials stored offsite at a nearby U.S.

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Army base and simulated devices and instruments for future RERO courses.

4. Federal Register Notice

- o Provide formal notification of Director's decision
- o Provide notification to States of termination of services to States
- o Provide identification of alternative (non-NIC) radiological services
- o Offer FEMA brokering services to States to secure radiological services
- o Solicit suggestions for the identification of alternative services and strategies

5. Disposition of radioactive sources (NIC/States)

- o **NIC:** Two options for "disposal" of radioactive sources at NIC: (1) secure new "homes" for them with other organizations and ship them or (2) dispose of them through U.S. Army (Rock Island Depot/Illinois) at Barnwell facility in South Carolina
- o Almost all low-level radioactive training source sets stored in lead containers (PIGs) at the NIC have been shipped (except for one remaining shipment) to Barnwell, S.C. through the support of two U.S. Army contractors.
- o **States:** Two options for "disposal" of radioactive sources at NIC: (1) attempt to transfer legal ownership of sources from FEMA to States or (2) for FEMA to be available on an indefinite basis to receive sources back and dispose of them through finding "homes" for them or actual disposal through U.S. Army
- o **Film badge reading:** Continue provide film badge reading services to States for one year only through U.S. Army.

6. Disposition of the radiological instrumentation inventory at the General Services Administration (GSA) facility in Ft. Worth, Texas

- o Retain radiological instrument inventory based on FEMA Operations Support takeover of GSA facility for disaster support

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- o Permit States to ship excessed survey instruments to the GSA facility (national repository of radiological instruments)
 - o GSA will coordinate shipment of radioactive sources and instruments from States
- 7. Terminate most services to the State**
- o **Terminate services:** (1) transfer standards, (2) provision of radiological instrumentation parts and supplies via GSA; (3) provision of new radiological instrumentation technology; (4) acceptance testing of dosimeters; (5) repair of survey instruments and dosimeters, (6) research and development (via U.S. Army, State of Ohio and NIC)
 - o **Retain services/resources:** (1) pay for and coordinate film badge reading for State personnel using FEMA-owned radioactive sources for FY 97 only; (2) survey States to determine their interest in accepting ownership of all FEMA-owned radioactive sources; (3) FEMA would continue to pay for return shipments of FEMA-owned radioactive sources back to the Agency or to a disposal site; and (4) FEMA will retain GSA radiological instrument inventory in Ft. Worth, Texas.
 - o **Funding to States:** States will still be able to use SL-100% funds to support radiological instrumentation (contingent upon Congressional approval) during FY 97.
- 8. Termination of technical support to Arrow-Tech, the dosimeter production facility in Rolla, North Dakota**
- o FEMA had privatized the William Langer Jewel Bearing Plant (WLJBP) and entered into new, no-cost contract with Arrow-Tech
 - o New contract calls for provision of NIC technical assistance to Arrow-Tech (dosimeter design, materials and acceptance testing)
 - o Will need to terminate contract with Arrow-Tech and provision of technical assistance
 - o Arrow-Tech still available as dosimeter production facility for Federal government, States and private sector

NIC Termination Plan

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9. NIC will be terminated (June 1997)

- o All staff will be re-assigned (9/29/96)
- o All radiological resources "disposed of" (March 1997)
- o NIC closed (6/1997)

Enclosure 2**Status Report on Specific Elements of the NIC Termination Plan**

The following status report is provided on specific parts of the Termination Plan for the NIC. While the overall Plan has not been yet approved by FEMA management, specific elements of the Plan have been approved and actions taken.

1. **Re-assignment of NIC staff.** The 13 NIC staff have been re-assigned to functions at the Mt. Weather Emergency Assistance Center. One of the former NIC staff (Mr. Carl Siebentritt) has been re-assigned to the function of managing the closeout of the NIC. Mr. Siebentritt works full time at the Mt. Weather Emergency Assistance Center in Berryville, Virginia. Some of the NIC staff will continue to work at the NIC on a parttime basis to assist in the present effort to dispose of low-level radioactive sources. These staff include the two radioactive safety offices (RSO): Messrs. Jose Cortes (Agency RSO) and Robert Koslow (NIC RSO). Their new supervisors have made them available as RSO's to assist Mr. Siebentritt on as-needed basis to assist in the closeout of the NIC.

2. **Securing of Health Physics Support.** FEMA has contracted with the U.S. Army to secure health physics support from the Safety Office of the U.S. Army Communications and Electronics Command in Ft. Monmouth, New Jersey. Based on the guidance provided by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, FEMA will request a license amendment from the Commission to transfer the Radiation Safety Officer functions (Agency/NIC) to the U.S. Army into one integrated RSO function.

3. **Disposal of Radioactive Sources.** Through a contract with the U.S. Army Industrial Operations Command from Rock Island, Illinois, FEMA has been shipping radioactive sources from the NIC for disposal. These shipments began on October 14, 1996, and are continuing. As of this date, a total of 2,400 "PIGs" containing 14,400 radioactive sources were shipped from the NIC to Barnwell, S.C. In addition, three (3) Model 1 CD V-700 calibrators containing high-level radioactive sources were shipped from the NIC to J. L. Shepherd in California. This shipment was also made by the U.S. Army on behalf of FEMA.

4. **Disposition of Radioactive Sources in the States.** One of the next steps in the NIC closeout will be to address the disposition of radioactive sources currently owned by FEMA, but loaned to and in the possession of State governments. In the near future, we will contact all of these States to determine their interest in accepting ownership of both low-level training source sets and

calibrators containing high-level radioactive sources. It is our hope that most of these States will accept the transfer of ownership of these sources from FEMA to themselves. Also, those States that wish to return these radioactive sources and calibrators to FEMA, we will arrange for all of the low-level radioactive sources to be shipped directly from the States to Barnwell, South Carolina. This will be effected by the U.S. Army on behalf of FEMA. For those States that decide to return calibrators containing high-level radioactive sources, FEMA will attempt to secure "homes" for them, thus precluding the need to dispose of them. None of these low- or high-level radioactive sources will be returned to the NIC.