

February 26, 1997

MEMORANDUM TO: Carl J. Paperiello, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

FROM: Charles J. Haughney, Acting Director
Spent Fuel Project Office, NMSS

SUBJECT: STATUS OF PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM PHASE I - PILOT
ASSESS'

The Spent Fuel Project Office (SFPO) is currently in Phase I of the Performance Assessment Program Plan as described in the memorandum to C. Paperiello from W. Travers, dated October 15, 1996. Phase I of the plan consists of developing a draft assessment procedure and conducting pilot assessments. The draft procedure was completed in December 1996, and the pilot assessments are scheduled to be completed in June 1997.

SFPO convened a selection board to choose candidates for the pilot assessment. The board selected, with the consent of SFPO's management team, Transnuclear (TN) and Precision Components Corporation (PCC) as organizations to be used in the pilot assessment. TN and PCC would represent a designer as well as a fabricator, they are currently active, and their performance has not been delineated by high visibility interaction with NRC.

The pilot assessments will be used to refine the assessment method, conduct an additional assessment to validate the assessment approach, develop a final manual chapter, and determine resource requirements. The Performance Assessment Program Plan initially called for the performance of three pilot assessments by June 1997. However, we currently consider that the performance of two assessments will be adequate to accomplish our objectives, thereby, allowing the utilization of SFPO staff resources for other priorities. While performing the assessments we intend to track the resource requirements closely in order to be able to estimate the impact of conducting assessments on a routine basis in the future.

Unless otherwise advised, we will commence the performance of the two pilot assessments and continue with Phase II. Phase II, scheduled to be completed in December 1997, consists of developing a final assessment procedure, performing additional assessments if required, and issuing the final manual chapter.

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