



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

June 22, 2020

Ms. Elizabeth Connell
Associate Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
Regulatory and Policy Affairs
US Department of Energy
Office of Environmental Management
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585-1290

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DRAFT WASTE INCIDENTAL TO REPROCESSING EVALUATION FOR VITRIFIED LOW ACTIVITY WASTE DISPOSED ONSITE AT THE HANFORD SITE FOR DETAILED TECHNICAL REVIEW (DOCKET NUMBER PROJ0736)

Dear Ms. Connell:

By letter dated April 24, 2020 (U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML20120A592), the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) submitted to the NRC a request to conduct a consultative review of the Draft Waste Incidental to Reprocessing Evaluation for Vitrified Low Activity Waste Disposed Onsite at the Hanford Site, Washington (Draft WIR Evaluation).

The Draft WIR Evaluation assesses whether the VLAWE meets the waste-incidental-to-reprocessing (WIR) criteria set forth in DOE M 435.1-1, *Radioactive Waste Management Manual*, Chapter II.B.(2)(a), and therefore is waste incidental to reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel, is not high-level radioactive waste, and may be managed as low-level radioactive waste.

The NRC has completed its acceptance review of the Draft WIR Evaluation. The NRC finds that the submittal is acceptable. The NRC will proceed with the detailed technical review. An approximate schedule for completion of this review is indicated in the following table.

Action	Schedule
Vitrified Low Activity Waste submittal	April 23, 2020
NRC Acceptance Review	June 22, 2020
Issue Request for Additional Information (RAI)	October 1, 2020
Receive RAI responses	January 27, 2021
Complete Draft Technical Evaluation Report (TER)	May 14, 2021
NRC and DOE discussion on TER (if necessary)	May 19, 2021
NRC transmits TER to DOE	May 21, 2021

If there are emergent complexities or challenges in our review that would cause changes to the initial forecasted completion date, the reasons for the changes, along with the new estimates, will be communicated in separate correspondence.

In accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* Section 2.390, "Agency Rules of Practice and Procedure," 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 ADAMS. ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

If you have any questions, please contact Project Manager, Maurice Heath at 301-415-3137 or by e-mail, Maurice.Heath@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephen Koenick".

Stephen Koenick, Branch Chief
Low-Level Waste and Projects Branch
Division of Decommissioning, Uranium Recovery
and Waste Programs
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No.: PROJ0736

cc: S. Ross, DOE
D. Smith, DOE
I. Milton, DOE

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DRAFT WASTE
INCIDENTAL TO REPROCESSING EVALUATION FOR VITRIFIED LOW
ACTIVITY WASTE DISPOSED ONSITE AT THE HANFORD SITE FOR
DETAILED TECHNICAL REVIEW (DOCKET NUMBER PROJ0736)
DATE: June 22, 2020

DISTRIBUTION:

P. Yadav, NRC

ADAMS Accession No. ML20167A177*** via email**

OFFICE	NMSS/DUWP	NMSS/DUWP	NMSS/DUWP	NMSS/DUWP
NAME	M. Heath	D. Esh	C. McKenney	S. Koenick
DATE	6.11.20	6.11.20	6.12.20	6.22.20

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY