

April 8, 2003

Dear Stakeholder:

We are sending you this letter as a follow up to a letter we sent on March 6, 2003, describing an error in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility (MOX facility). These errors were also discussed at the March 25, 26 and 27, 2003, public meetings that were held in Savannah, Ga; North Augusta, SC; and Charlotte, NC, respectively. This letter describes the cause of the errors identified, and provides corrected pages. The DEIS errata sheets are attached and the shaded areas indicate where changes in the DEIS have been made as a result of the errors identified.

The first error is associated with a flaw in the tritium model option in a computer code used by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff. The code is GENII version 1.485, the Hanford Environmental Radiation Dosimetry Software System. The staff used this option in its analysis of a large accidental tritium release from the Pit Disassembly and Conversion Facility (PDCF). The PDCF would be located adjacent to the MOX facility and would supply plutonium dioxide feed to the MOX facility.

The second error is associated with incorrect units presented in Table D-1 of the Duke Cogema Stone & Webster (DCS) Environmental Report (July 11, 2002). This table presents a statistical summary of meteorological data over a five year period at the Savannah River Site. As part of this summary, wind speed ranges are incorrectly labeled as "meters per second." The data presented is actually in "miles per hour." After inquiry by staff, DCS confirmed the error and plans to submit page changes to the Environmental Report to correct the error.

The staff has recalculated public doses after compensating for these two errors. The estimated number of latent cancer fatalities in the surrounding communities, in the highly unlikely event of an unmitigated large tritium release from the PDCF, is reduced from 400 to approximately 100. This revised PDCF tritium accident result reflects the correction of both errors in the original calculation. The estimates of all other downwind doses reported in the DEIS (both normal and accident-related), which were affected by only the second error, have increased by about two times higher than originally reported. Therefore, the corrections to the calculations do not change the staff's preliminary recommendation in the DEIS.

Stakeholder

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As stated in the March 6, 2003, letter, the comment period has been extended by 30 days to **May 14, 2003**. If you have any questions regarding the MOX facility, please contact Tim Harris teh@nrc.gov at (301)415-6613.

Sincerely,

Lawrence E. Kokajko, Acting Chief
Environmental and Performance Assessment Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

Stakeholder

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