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Mr. Robert C. Pierson  
Director, Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
11545 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, MD 20852-2738

29 September 2005  
DCS-NRC-000182

**Subject:** Schedule for Application for a Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility License,  
Docket No.: 70-3098

Dear Mr. Pierson

Thank you for the opportunity to meet with your staff in Washington on September 7, 2005 to provide an update on the status of the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility Project (MFFF). As part of that status update, tentative plans to submit a license application and an Integrated Safety Analysis Summary to the commission were presented. As stated at the public meeting, DCS intends to submit the license application during the third quarter of CY 2006.

Per your letter dated August 3, 2005, you requested information regarding expected interactions with the NRC staff prior to the license application submittal for planning and budgeting purposes. Expected interactions were also discussed at the September 7, 2005 public meeting. As a summary, the following interactions were discussed:

- A working session is needed to discuss physical security issues and responsibilities with DCS, DOE, and NRC representatives to confirm standards and expectations that are to be included in the MFFF Physical Security Plan.
- A working session is needed to further discuss the format and content of the license application and the Integrated Safety Analysis Summary so that the NRC representatives have a better understanding how material will be presented minimizing duplication of information.
- A date for the start of MFFF site preparation is not known at this time but will be provided to you as soon as it is available.
- A date for start of MFFF construction is not available at this time. Following an internal DOE review of readiness to start construction, a tentative date will be identified and provided to you.

Mr. Robert C. Pierson  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
DCS-NRC-000182  
29 September 2005  
Page 2 of 2

- An internal QA audit of MFFF design activities will take place in November 2005 at the DCS design offices near Bagnols, France. The audit will be a good opportunity for the NRC staff to increase its familiarity with the MFFF design. Interactions between your staff and the DCS Quality Assurance Manager, Jim Cassidy, have taken place concerning your participation.

Specific dates for the interactions listed above will be determined in cooperation with your staff. The location of working session meetings will also be determined at a later time.

Thank you again for the opportunity to meet with your staff on September 7, 2005.

Sincerely,



Richard L. Sweigart  
Vice President  
Regulatory Affairs

RLS:gdh

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