

January 26, 2009

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

BEFORE THE ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD

In the Matter of)
)
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY)
)
(High-Level Waste Repository))

Docket No. 63-001

NRC STAFF ANSWER TO THE STATE OF NEVADA'S MOTION
TO AMEND PETITION TO INTERVIEN AS A FULL PARTY

INTRODUCTION

The Staff of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (Staff) hereby files this answer in opposition to the State of Nevada's January 16, 2009 Motion to Amend Petition to Intervene as a Full Party. (Motion). The Motion seeks authority to amend Nevada's contention NEV-SAFETY-03.

DISCUSSION

The last date for the timely filing of petitions to intervene and requests for hearing with contentions was Dec. 22, 2008. *U.S. Dep't. of Energy* (High-Level Waste Repository: Pre-Application Matters), CLI-08-18, 68 NRC __, __ (slip op. at 11) (Aug. 13, 2008); *U.S. Dep't. of Energy* (High-Level Waste Repository), CLI-08-25, 68 NRC __ (Oct. 17, 2008) (73 Fed. Reg. 63,029, (Oct. 22, 2008)). Since Nevada's Motion was not filed until January 16, 2009, it is subject to 10 CFR § 2.309(f)(2) governing admission of amended contentions. *Shaw Areva Mox Services* (Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility), LBP-07-14, 66 NRC 169, 210 n.95 (2007).

Pursuant to 10 C.F.R. §2.309(f)(2) after the initial filing, contentions may be amended only with leave of the presiding officer based on a showing that:

- i) . . .

ii) The information upon which the amended or new contention is based is materially different than information previously available; and

iii) . . .

Nevada's Motion should be denied because it fails to show that the information upon which the amended contention is based is materially different than information previously available. Although Nevada claims that ". . .the information upon which the amendment to its contention is based is materially different from information previously available. . ." Motion, at 1, a comparison of the content of NEV-SAFETY-03, as filed, with the document referred to the Motion shows that the information upon which the amended contention is based is not materially different from the information that is already included in NEV-SAFETY-03.

In NEV-SAFETY-03, as it was originally filed, Nevada describes what it alleges are previous quality assurance program inadequacies and then goes on to offer Nevada's view of the current and future inadequacy of DOE's implementation of its QA program. Nevada Petition to Intervene as a Full Party, January 16, 2009 p. 58. The Motion argues that the document upon which it is based, close-out information regarding DOE's Condition Report CR-6330, demonstrates that "DOE's QA shortcomings have persisted to the present day, well beyond submission of. . .[DOE's]. . .LA." Motion at 5. At the same time, the Motion asserts that NEV-SAFETY-03, as filed, discussed the "**current** status of DOE's deficient quality assurance program, continuing **after** the time it filed its LA. . ." Motion, at 1 (Emphasis in the original). Thus, as Nevada itself acknowledges, the information upon which the amended contention is based is not materially different from the information that was previously available in NEV-SAFETY-03, since both claim to demonstrate that alleged failings in DOE's quality assurance program have continued into the period after DOE submitted its license application. Therefore, the Motion should be denied.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons stated above, the Staff respectfully requests the Board to deny Nevada's Motion to amend its contention NEV-SAFETY-03 because the Motion fails to fulfill the requirement of 10 C.F.R. § 2.309 (f)(2)(ii) to show that the information upon which it is based is materially different from information previously available.

Respectfully submitted,

Signed (electronically) by

Daniel W. Lenehan
Counsel for NRC Staff
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of the General Counsel
Mail Stop O-15 D21
Washington, DC 20555-0001
(301) 415-3501
dwl2@nrc.gov

Dated at Rockville, Maryland
This 26th day of January, 2009

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the COS REPLY TO NV MOT TO AMEND in the above-captioned proceeding have been served on the following persons this 26th day of January, 2009, by Electronic Information Exchange.

Charles J. Fitzpatrick, Esq.
John W. Lawrence, Esq.
Egan, Fitzpatrick & Malsch, PLLC
12500 San Pedro Avenue, Suite 555
San Antonio, TX 78216
E-mail: cfitzpatrick@nuclearlawyer.com
jlawrence@nuclearlawyer.com

Martin G. Malsch, Esq.
Egan, Fitzpatrick & Malsch, PLLC
2001 K Street, N.W.. Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20006
E-mail: mmalsch@nuclearlawyer.com

Brian W. Hembacher, Esq.
Deputy Attorney General
California Attorney General's Office
300 South Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90013
E-mail: brian.hembacher@doj.ca.gov

Timothy E. Sullivan, Esq.
Deputy Attorney General
California Department of Justice
1515 Clay Street., 20th Flr.
P.O. Box 70550
Oakland, CA 94612-0550
E-mail: timothy.sullivan@doj.ca.gov

Kevin W. Bell, Esq.
Senior Staff Counsel
California Energy Commission
1516 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
E-mail: kwbell@energy.state.ca.us

Marc Gordon
Jennings Strouss & Salmon, PLC
8330 W. Sahara Avenue, Suite 290
Las Vegas, NV 89117-8949
Email: mgordon@jsslaw.com

Alan I. Robbins, Esq.
Debra D. Roby, Esq.
Jennings Strouss & Salmon, PLC
1700 Pennsylvania Ave, NW Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20005
E-mail: arobbins@jsslaw.com
droby@jsslaw.com

Ethan I. Strell, Esq.
Carter Ledyard & Milburn LLP
2 Wall Street
New York, NY 10005
E-mail: strell@clm.com

Donald J. Silverman, Esq.
Thomas A. Schmutz, Esq.
Thomas C. Poindexter, Esq.
Paul J. Zaffuts, Esq.
Alex S. Polonsky, Esq.
Lewis Csedrik, Esq.
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
1111 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20004
E-mail: dsilverman@morganlewis.com
tschmutz@morganlewis.com
tpoindexter@morganlewis.com
pzaffuts@morganlewis.com
apolonsky@morganlewis.com
lcsedrik@morganlewis.com

Malachy R. Murphy, Esq.
18160 Cottonwood Rd. #265
Sunriver, OR 97707
E-mail: mrmurphy@chamberscable.com

Robert M. Anderson
Akerman Senterfitt
801 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W., Suite 600
Washington, DC 20004 USA
E-mail: robert.anderson@akerman.com

Martha S. Crosland, Esq.
Angela M. Kordyak, Esq.
Mary B. Neumayr, Esq.
Nicholas P. DiNunzio
James Bennett McRae, Esq.
U.S. Department of Energy
Office of the General Counsel
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20585
E-mail: martha.crosland@hq.doe.gov
angela.kordyak@hq.doe.gov
mary.neumayr@hq.doe.gov
nick.dinunzio@rw.doe.gov
ben.mcrae@hq.doe.gov

George W. Hellstrom
U.S. Department of Energy
Office of General Counsel
1551 Hillshire Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89134-6321
E-Mail: george.hellstrom@ymp.gov

Jeffrey D. VanNiel, Esq.
530 Farrington Court
Las Vegas, NV 89123
E-mail: nbridvn@gmail.com

Barry S. Neuman, Esq.
Carter Ledyard & Milburn, LLP
1401 Eye Street, NW
Suite 300
Washington, DC 20005
E-mail: neuman@clm.com

Susan L. Durbin, Esq.
Deputy Attorney General
1300 I Street
P.O. Box 944255
Sacramento, CA 94244-2550
E-mail: susan.durbin@doj.ca.gov

Frank A. Putzu
Naval Sea Systems Command Nuclear
Propulsion Program
1333 Isaac Hull Avenue, S.E.
Washington Navy Yard, Building 197
Washington, DC 20376
E-mail: frank.putzu@navy.mil

John M. Peebles
Darcie L. Houck
Fredericks Peebles & Morgan LLP
1001 Second Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
E-mail: jpeebles@ndnlaw.com

Ellen C. Ginsberg
Michael A. Bauser
Anne W. Cottingham
Nuclear Energy Institute, Inc.
1776 I Street, N.W., Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20006
E-mail: ecg@nei.org
mab@nei.org
awc@nei.org

David A. Repka
William A. Horin
Rachel Miras-Wilson
Winston & Strawn LLP
1700 K Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
E-mail: drepka@winston.com
whorin@winston.com
rwilson@winston.com

Jay E. Silberg
Timothy J.V. Walsh
Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP
2300 N Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037-1122
E-mail: jay.silberg@pillsburylaw.com
timothy.walsh@pillsburylaw.com

John H. Huston, Esq.
6722 Running Colors Avenue
Las Vegas, NV 89131
E-mail: johnhuston@gmail.com

CAB 01
William J. Froehlich, Chair
Thomas S. Moore
Richard E. Wardwell
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001
E-mail: wjf1@nrc.gov
tsm2@nrc.gov
rew@nrc.gov

CAB 02
Michael M. Gibson, Chair
Lawrence G. McDade
Nicholas G. Trikourous
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001
E-mail: mmg3@nrc.gov
lqm1@nrc.gov
NGT@NRC.GOV

CAB 03
Paul S. Ryerson, Chair
Michael C. Farrar
Mark O. Barnett
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001
E-mail: psr1@nrc.gov
mcf@nrc.gov
mob1@nrc.gov
mark.barnett@nrc.gov

Gregory L. James
710 Autumn Leaves Circle
Bishop, California 93514
Email: gljames@earthlink.net

Robert F. List, Esq.
Jennifer A. Gores, Esq.
Armstrong Teasdale LLP
1975 Village Center Circle, Suite 140
Las Vegas, NV 89134-6237
E-mail: rlist@armstrongteasdale.com
jgores@armstrongteasdale.com

Diane Curran
Harmon, Curran, Spielberg, & Eisenberg,
L.L.P.
1726 M Street N.W., Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20036
E-mail: dcurran@harmoncurran.com

Ian Zabarte, Board Member
Native Community Action Council
P.O. Box 140
Baker, NV 89311
E-mail: mrizabarte@gmail.com

Richard Sears
District Attorney No. 5489
White Pine County District Attorney's Office
801 Clark Street, Suite 3
Ely, NV 89301
E-mail: rwsears@wpcda.org

/Signed (electronically) by/

Daniel W. Lenehan
Counsel for NRC Staff
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of General Counsel
Mail Stop O-15-D21
Washington, DC 20555-0001
(301) 415-3501
dwl2@nrc.gov