MUR 000001

Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

August 24, 2004

2004-008803

MEMORANDUM FOR DAVID K. GARMAN
ACTING UNDER SECRETARY OF ENERGY

THROUGH: MICHAEL W. OWEN
DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF LEGACY MANAGEMENT

FROM: PAUL M. GOLAN
ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

SUBJECT: Action: Approval of the Critical Decision 4 for the Mixed Transuranic (TRU) Waste Removal Project, University of Missouri Research Reactor (MURR), Columbia, Missouri, and Transfer of Records to Office of Legacy Management (LM)

ISSUE: None

BACKGROUND: The privately-funded TRUMP-S (Transuranic Management through Pyropartitioning Separation) Project at MURR evaluated the technical feasibility of electrolytic separation of TRU elements from spent nuclear fuel and defense wastes. The Department of Energy's (DOE) contribution was to supply TRU materials for the experiments and to accept the TRU waste that they generated. The research project was completed in September 1997. MURR completed decontamination and had removed all but the TRU waste by late 1998. The Office of Environmental Management (EM) was tasked to remove the mixed TRU waste from MURR and emplace in Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). The waste was repacked into seven drums in compliance with the WIPP Waste Acceptance Criteria in December 1998.

MURR stored the drums on site while DOE sought a way to certify their acceptability for WIPP – or to transfer them to a DOE site.

The drums were ultimately trucked to Argonne National Laboratory for certification on May 15, 2003; left Argonne for WIPP on July 24, 2003; and were emplaced in WIPP on July 28, 2003. This completed all of the EM physical work and removed the possibility that disqualified drums might return to MURR.

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Attached are CD 4 documents in support of the closeout:
(1) CD-4 Briefing package to the Energy Acquisition Advisory Board.
(2) LM Transition Framework.

DISCUSSION: The Federal Facilities Agreement for MURR is closed. In a letter dated 8/20/03, Missouri Department of Natural Resources agreed that no further action is required from the DOE for compliance with their Administrative Order.

The final purchase order with the University of Missouri (UM) was closed out on 5/20/04. The contract file will accompany the project file to LM in Grand Junction. All told, DOE paid MURR $66,884 to store these drums and to help with the transfer to Argonne. Carlsbad covered the costs of trucking to Argonne, certification at Argonne, trucking to WIPP, and emplacement; those costs are included in the cost of processing Argonne's debris waste for disposal at WIPP. DOE and the University co-signed a brief closure agreement on 5/17/04 and 5/27/04, respectively. LM will have no obligation to UM from TRUMP-S.

WIPP retains the records of the waste composition, packaging, and burial location.

MURR project records and other useful information await shipment to LM for repository storage.

SENSITIVITIES: None

POLICY IMPACT: None

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the Critical Decision 4 closeout of the MURR project and the transfer of MURR project records and other useful information to LM for repository storage.

Attachments

APPROVE: _____

DISAPPROVE: _____

DATE: 9/2/04

cc: H. M. De Graca, Oak

Excerpt from Critical Decision 4 Document

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Significant information from pages 1,2