April 15, 2014

MEMORANDUM TO: Gregory Suber, Chief
Low-Level Waste Branch
Environmental Protection
and Performance Assessment Directorate
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection

THRU: Christepher McKenney, Chief **/RA/**
Performance Assessment Branch
Environmental Protection
and Performance Assessment Directorate
Division of Waste Management
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FROM: Adam Schwartzman, Systems Performance Analyst **/RA/**
Performance Assessment Branch
Environmental Protection
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Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection

SUBJECT: TECHNICAL REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING PROGRAMS AT IDAHO NATIONAL LABORATORY IDAHO NUCLEAR TECHNOLGY AND ENGINEERING CENTER (PROJECT NO. PROJ0735)

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff performed a technical review of the environmental monitoring program reports prepared by Gonzales Stoller Surveillance, LLC, a contractor for the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Idaho National Laboratory (INL), and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (Idaho DEQ). This review, which addresses Knowledge Management Area 4 (KMA 4) in the NRC's technical evaluation report for the Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center (INTEC), evaluates DOE compliance with the performance objective found in 10 CFR 61.43 related to protection of individuals during operations. This review considered environmental monitoring activities conducted at INTEC and INL, in general, from January 2011 through September 2013.

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As a result of this review NRC staff continues to have reasonable assurance that the 10 CFR 61.43 performance objective related to protection of individuals during operations will be met. Other than some increases in radioactivity levels detected during March and April of 2011 following the Fukushima accident, NRC staff found the monitoring results to be consistent with monitoring reports reviewed in previous years. In general, radioactivity levels remained the same or continued to decrease.

Based on the findings from this review and those from previous years NRC staff feel that it is no longer necessary to perform a separate annual review of the environmental monitoring programs and exposure assessment calculations associated with INL. The NRC staff will continue to include environmental monitoring and exposure assessments as part of the onsite observations. DOE should also continue to provide information to the NRC on specific violations of requirements related to workers and the general public (10 CFR Part 835 or DOE Order 5400.5) during its waste disposal operations as well as other environmental monitoring issues that may be of concern. This includes information regarding worker or public dose exceedance within a reasonable timeframe of their occurrences.

Enclosure:
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Monitoring Programs at the Idaho
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