




Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

February 4, 2008

EXEC-2008-001363

MEMORANDUM FOR C.H. ALBRIGHT, JR.
UNDER SECRETARY OF ENERGY

FROM:  GLENN S. PODONSKY
CHIEF HEALTH, SAFETY AND SECURITY OFFICER
OFFICE OF HEALTH, SAFETY AND SECURITY

SUBJECT: ACTION: Approval of a Permanent Variance Regarding Sprinklers
and Fire Boundaries in Selected Areas of 221-H Canyon at the
Savannah River Site

ISSUE: This memorandum constitutes the Chief Health, Safety and Security Officer's recommendation that the Under Secretary of Energy approve a permanent variance regarding sprinklers and fire boundaries in selected areas of 221-H Canyon at the Savannah River Site.

This memorandum will also constitute the Under Secretary of Energy's approval of the variance if so indicated on the approval line at the end of this memorandum.

BACKGROUND: This memorandum is in response to an Office of Environmental Management request to the Chief Health, Safety and Security Officer to recommend approval of a Washington Savannah River Company, LLC, application for a permanent variance (attached) from certain requirements in title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, part 851 (10 C.F.R. 851), Appendix A, Section 2, "Fire Protection." Specifically, the application seeks relief from certain requirements of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 101, "Life Safety Code," which requires automatic sprinkler protection throughout such structures as H-Canyon and NFPA Standard 37, "Combustible Liquids and Gas Turbines," which requires enclosure of diesel generators by fire resistive construction.

The 10 C.F.R. 851, Appendix A, Section 2, "Fire Protection," requires contractors to meet applicable building codes and NFPA codes and standards. This application requests a variance from certain provisions of two NFPA codes and standards. We have determined that the conditions and measures described by Washington Savannah River Company, LLC, satisfy the requirements of 10 C.F.R. 851.31 for requesting a permanent variance from the requirements of the applicable NFPA standards. Specifically, we find that the requester has shown that "the conditions, practices, means, methods, operations, or processes used or proposed to be used would provide workers a place of employment which is as safe and healthful as would result from compliance with the standard from which a variance is sought," as required by 10 C.F.R. 851.31(d)(2)(ii). Therefore, the variance request may be considered.



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RECOMMENDATION: That the Under Secretary of Energy approve the permanent variance from certain requirements of NFPA 101 and NFPA Standard 37, as specified in the attached variance application, including its UONI attachments.

APPROVE: 

DISAPPROVE: _____

DATE: 2-7-08

Attachment

cc w/attachment:

James A. Rispoli, EM-1

Ines R. Triay, EM-1

Dae Y. Chung, EM-60

James Owendoff, EM-3

Arnold E. Guevara, HS-40

Andrew C. Lawrence, HS-20