



Department of Energy

Fermi Site Office
Post Office Box 2000
Batavia, Illinois 60510

JAN 19 2012

Dr. Bruce L. Chrisman
Chief Operating Officer
Fermilab
P.O. Box 500
Batavia, IL 60510

Dear Dr. Chrisman:

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (DOE) 2011 FERMILAB MATERIALS AND RADIOLOGICAL CLEARANCE OPERATIONS TECHNICAL ASSIST VISIT

References: 1) Letter, B. Chrisman to M. Weis, dated December 19, 2011, Subject: Same As Above
2) Letter, M. Weis to B. Chrisman, dated August 26, 2011, Subject: Same As Above
3) Letter, M. Jones to M. Weis, dated July 15, 2011, Subject: Technical Assist Visit to Support Materials and Radiological Clearance Operations at Fermilab

The Fermi Site Office (FSO) has reviewed the response (Reference1) that identifies Corrective Actions to address the recommendations identified during the April 2011 DOE-HQ Office of Science Technical Assist Visit to Support Materials and Radiological Clearance Operations at Fermilab. FSO concurs with the proposed actions to address the Site Assist Visit recommendations. FSO staff will continue to meet with the Laboratory on the Completion of Corrective Actions needed to remove radioactive material area items from the provisions of the 2000 suspension.

FSO will also continue to work with Fermilab and DOE-HQ to pursue information relating to the Secretary of Energy's decision to pursue the preparation of a NEPA document to release materials encumbered by the 2000 suspension. FSO looks forward to working with the Laboratory on programmatic improvements and those continued efforts directed toward the future release of materials.

FSO will track the status of corrective actions through frESHTRK. If you have any questions, please contact Berline Short or Dennis Parzyck at extension 4197 or 2449 respectively.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Weis
Site Manager

Enclosure:
As Stated

cc: P. Oddone, w/o encl.
Y. - K. Kim, w/o encl.
N. Grossman, w/encl.
D. Cossairt, w/encl.
R. Ortgiesen, w/o encl.
D. Carlson, w/o encl.

ESH File: Release of Surplus and Scrap

ESH Docdb # 1648

Enclosure
**Fermilab Interim Response to DOE 2011 Fermilab Materials and Radiological
Clearance Operations Technical Assist Visit**
December 19, 2011

To clarify the context the specific observations of Reference 1 are repeated along with the formal recommendations. Below each recommendation, planned, or completed Fermilab actions are described.

Observation 1: *Moratorium and Suspension policies as implemented would benefit from clarification by DOE Headquarters.*

Recommendation 1: Fermilab should review and revise applicable plans and procedures to implement policy clarifications, such as reduction of the number and size of radiological areas and resume material clearance operations consistent with the observations and recommendations found in this report.

Corrective Action: Subsequent to DOE-FSO approval, Division/Section/Centers would be permitted to posting areas in accordance with their current conditions in accordance with the DOE-approved Radiation Protection Program for 10 CFR 835 and the FRCM.

Observation 2: *Site implementation of Suspension guidance is applied in a very conservative manner. Procedures used to implement the suspension and moratorium policies include Radiological Materials Areas (RMA) although RMA is not a 10CFR835 defined radiological area.*

Recommendation 2a: The Railhead Procedure should be corrected to eliminate an RMA from being designated as a 10CFR835 defined Radiological Area.

Corrective Action: Upon approval of these actions by DOE-FSO, items subsequently being removed from radioactive materials areas will no longer be subject to the provisions of the suspension but will remain subject to the materials survey and release provisions of the FRCM.

Recommendation 2b: The site should enforce segregation of Group 1 (materials not encumbered by the Suspension of 2000) and Group 2 materials (materials encumbered by the Suspension) to reduce the risk of commingling of suspect radiological contaminated material with uncontaminated items obtained from non-process areas of the laboratory.

Corrective Action: A Revised Railhead Procedure is being written that will include provisions to address this recommendation. Better definition of the boundaries of the storage of these materials is included in this document.

Observation 3: *Documentation of truck monitor use for radiological and materials release processes could be improved.*

Recommendation 3: Fermilab should consider applying additional rigor and formality to the use of the truck monitor to evaluate loads of materials leaving the site.

Corrective Action: Revised procedures for truck monitor have been developed and will be incorporated into the Railhead Procedure document.

Observation 4: Fermi Radiological Control Manual (FRCM) requirements, as reviewed, for the release of material are not being consistent implemented across Divisions.

Recommendation 4: Review and revise site and divisional procedures for materials release to ensure consistency and to meet performance mandates as required within the Secretarial policy.

Observation 5: Material Movement Release form and relevant information could be improved.

Recommendation 5: Develop a single Material Movement Request form that includes all relevant information to strengthen and formalize the radiological and materials release process to include all material movement documentation.

Corrective Action: A single MMR form has already been instituted. The version used internally within the Business Services Section for other purposes has been renamed as the Scrap Shipment Request Form to remove the point of confusion identified in the review. The old MMR forms are no longer accepted by the Business Services Section. Individuals trained in Material Move Request surveys will be supplied updated information on the use of the new forms.

Observation 6: Return of radiation survey instruments due for calibration needs to be improved to ensure that instruments that are out-of-calibration are not available for use in the field.

Recommendation 6: Fermilab management should support a more robust notification and return policy of radiological instruments to ensure that out-of-calibration instruments are not available for use in the field for radiological and materials clearance purposes.

Corrective Action: In response to this review more robust measures have been taken to assure the return of instruments. As a result performance in this area is much improved.

General Corrective Action: Once DOE-FSO approval of these actions is granted, additional instructions will be provided to the Fermilab staff before initiating any change in procedures with respect to the release of materials originating from radioactive materials areas.