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Department of Energy  
Richland Operations Office  
P.O. Box 550  
Richland, Washington 99352

01-RCA-265

APR 26 2001

Mr. Michael A. Wilson, Program Manager  
Nuclear Waste Program  
State of Washington  
Department of Ecology  
P.O. Box 47600  
Olympia, Washington 98504

RECEIVED  
MAY 16 2001  
EDMC

Dear Mr. Wilson:

**FAST FLUX TEST FACILITY (FFTF) HANFORD FEDERAL FACILITY AGREEMENT  
AND CONSENT ORDER (TRI-PARTY AGREEMENT) CHANGE PACKAGE M-81-01-01**

Attached is a memo to K. A. Klein, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Richland Operations Office (RL), from W. D. Magwood, IV, DOE-HQ, "Fiscal Year 2001 Program Guidance for the Fast Flux Test Facility," dated April 26, 2001. This memo instructs RL to suspend for 90 days the decision to permanently deactivate the FFTF as indicated in the Record of Decision for "The Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Accomplishing Expanded Civilian Nuclear Energy Research and Development and Isotope Production in the United States." In accordance with this decision, RL is also instructed to suspend FFTF-related negotiations associated with the Tri-Party Agreement milestones.

During these 90 days, DOE will undertake a review to examine the facts associated with this issue, and assure that all interested parties have an opportunity to have their views considered. This action to suspend deactivation of the FFTF will not prejudice DOE's final decision to activate or deactivate the FFTF.

The impact of this memo is to continue the FFTF milestones "in abeyance" as provided for in Change Control Forms M-81-98-01 and M-92-98-01 for the next 90 days. This suspension also defers the agreement for DOE to provide the subject change package pending the Secretarial review discussed in the attached memo.

As this review proceeds, we will keep you informed of the progress. If you have any questions, please contact me on (509) 376-9333, or Al Farabee, Director, RL FFTF Project Office, on (509) 376-8089.

Sincerely,

Clifford E. Clark, Acting Program Manager  
Office of Regulatory Liaison

RCA:CEC

Attachment  
cc: See page 2



United States Government

Department of Energy

# memorandum

DATE: April 26, 2001

REPLY TO

ATTN OF: NE-40

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year (FY) 2001 Program Guidance for the Fast Flux Test Facility (FFTF)

TO: Keith A. Klein, Manager  
Richland Operations Office

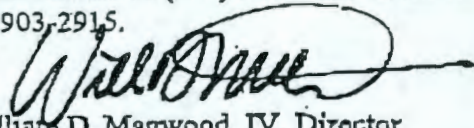
On April 25, 2001, Secretary Abraham suspended for 90 days the decision to permanently deactivate the FFTF as indicated in the Record of Decision for *The Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Accomplishing Expanded Civilian Nuclear Energy Research and Development and Isotope Production in the United States*. During this 90 days, the Department will undertake a review to examine the facts associated with this issue and assure that all interested parties have an opportunity to have their views considered. This action to suspend deactivation of the FFTF will not prejudice the Department's final decision to activate or deactivate the FFTF.

You are therefore instructed to suspend all further activities related to deactivation of FFTF pending the outcome of this 90-day review. You should immediately initiate surveillance and maintenance operations at FFTF but also continue appropriate planning activities without interruption.

In accordance with this decision, you are also directed to suspend FFTF-related negotiations associated with the Hanford Federal Facility Compliance Agreement and Consent Order milestones. Please inform appropriate officials of the State of Washington as to this development.

We expect that the 90-day review will encompass but not be limited to mission requirements and comparative cost information related to FFTF operation and deactivation. You should immediately initiate preparation of appropriate information to support this review and inform your staff of the need to respond quickly to any requests made on behalf of the review.

I appreciate your continued support and effort to ensure that these actions are taken expeditiously. If you have any questions, please call me at (202) 586-6630 or the Associate Director for Facilities, Robert Lange, at (301) 903-2915.

  
Willard D. Magwood, IV, Director  
Office of Nuclear Energy, Science  
and Technology

cc: Oliver A. Farabee, RL  
Robert R. Tibbatts, RL





The Secretary of Energy  
Washington, DC 20585

April 25, 2001

The Honorable Doc Hastings  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Hastings:

Thank you for your letter of April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2001, requesting that I suspend the Record of Decision to permanently deactivate the Fast Flux Test Facility (FFTF). I have reviewed the points you and others have made and will suspend for 90 days the decision to permanently deactivate the FFTF as indicated in the Record of Decision for *The Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Accomplishing Expanded Civilian Nuclear Energy Research and Development and Isotope Production in the United States*.

As you are aware, I indicated during my confirmation hearing before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee that the January 19, 2001 decision to permanently deactivate the FFTF would stand unless significant new information was presented which warranted a review of this decision. In response to your request for reconsideration, I am initiating this review of the decision to permanently deactivate the FFTF. I believe that we can effectively complete this effort in 90 days.

Proponents of reactivation such as you have identified several potential missions for the FFTF. As I understand it, a variety of experts believe the FFTF may yet have the ability to play an important role in nuclear energy research and development, the production of medical radioisotopes to treat cancer and other diseases, and the production of Plutonium-238, an isotope used to provide electrical power for space missions.

The status of the FFTF has been an issue for almost a decade, and the years of debate have produced a wealth of information in support of both reactivation and deactivation. I understand, however, that the perception exists that, to date, the decisions made with respect to the facility have not been open and fully considered public input. I ask for your help in ensuring that, regardless of the final decision, this review be conducted in such a fashion that no interested party will have complaints about the process during the 90-day review.

My action to suspend deactivation of the FFTF will not prejudice the Department's final decision to activate or deactivate the FFTF. That decision will be made at the conclusion of the review and will take into consideration the ability to secure significant partnerships associated with the use of the FFTF, as well as a comprehensive analysis of the various benefits and difficulties associated with the operation of this facility.

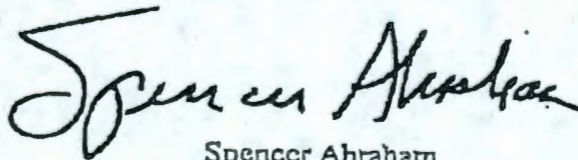


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Finally, as we have discussed, my hope is to visit the Hanford facility in the next 90 days. If your schedule permits, I hope you will have the opportunity to join me and brief me on your views on the progress of the review at that time.

Thank you for your assistance. I look forward to your continued input as the Department reviews the status of the Fast Flux Test Facility.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Spencer Abraham". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Spencer Abraham



APR 26 2001

Mr. Michael A. Wilson  
01-RCA-265

-2-

cc w/encl:

R. Gay, CTUIR

R. Bond, Ecology

L. Cusack, Ecology

D. B. Klos, FHI

R. F. Stanley, Ecology

D. R. Sherwood, EPA

J. S. Hertz, FHI

O. S. Kramer, FHI

E. J. Murphy-Fitch, FHI

R. E. Piippo, FHI

T. M. Martin, HAB

P. Sobotta, NPT

M. L. Blazek, Oregon Energy

R. Jim, YN

Administrative Record