



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

August 16, 2000

Mr. Timothy Knapp
Radiation Safety Officer
Cabot Corporation
Country Line Road
P.O. Box 1608
Boyertown, PA 19512-1608

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN ORIGIN URANIUM OR THORIUM

Dear Mr. Knapp:

The U.S. Government has negotiated and brought into force an Agreement for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Material with the Government of Australia. This Agreement requires the U.S. Government track and report Australian origin materials in the U.S. for use in our nuclear fuel cycle.

Recently, in bilateral discussions, the Australian Government raised concerns regarding Australian-origin uranium and thorium imported into the U.S. in ores such as tantalum for non-nuclear uses. If after ore processing, the uranium and thorium is subsequently recovered from the waste (or recovered from any other process) and re-entered into the U.S. nuclear fuel cycle, the U.S.-Australian Agreement requires the U.S. to track and report this material.

To aid the U.S. Government in satisfying the requirements of the U.S.-Australian Agreement, and all other such agreements, we request that you notify us if your company participates in any transactions for recovery of uranium or thorium that is not U.S.-origin and subsequent use of the material into the nuclear fuel cycle.

If you have any further questions concerning this matter, please contact me at 301-415-6267 or Mr. Brian Horn at 301-415-8128.

Sincerely,

Leslie Fields
Licensing Section
Fuel Cycle Licensing Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
and Safeguards, NMSS

cc: Christina Martin

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cc: Christine Martin

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