

July 17, 2001

Mr. Peter Hastings, Licensing Manager
Duke Cogema Stone & Webster
P.O. Box 31847
Charlotte, NC 28231-1847

SUBJECT: MIXED OXIDE FUEL FABRICATION FACILITY ADDITIONAL SITE
EXPLORATION

Dear Mr. Hastings:

We reviewed your letter of June 29, 2001, in which you identified additional site exploration activities needed to further characterize soil properties in the area of the proposed Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility. These activities would be intended to support the preparation of the application for operations.

We agree that these activities do not constitute "commencement of construction" as defined under 10 CFR 70.23(a)(7). That is, the proposed activities constitute site exploration, construction of roads necessary for site exploration, and borings to determine foundation conditions. We also agree that the proposed activities are allowable under 10 CFR Part 51.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-7299.

Sincerely,

/RA BY Wilkins R. Smith for:/

Timothy C. Johnson
Senior Mechanical Systems Engineer
Enrichment Section
Special Projects Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
and Safeguards
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket: 70-3098

cc: R. Ihde, DCS
J. Johnson, DOE
H. Potter, SC Dept. of HEC
J. Conway, DNFSB
D. Moniak, BREDL
E. Foster
R. Thomas, Environmentalists, Inc.
G. Carroll, GANE

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