

June 6, 2003

Mr. David Crawford, Director
Office of Plutonium, Uranium and
Special Materials Inventory
Office of Security
U.S. Department of Energy (SO-62)
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585-1290

SUBJECT: REMOVAL OF BALANCES OF GOVERNMENT-OWNED NUCLEAR MATERIAL
FROM DEACTIVATED ACCOUNTS IN THE NUCLEAR MATERIALS
MANAGEMENT AND SAFEGUARDS SYSTEM

I am responding to your letter to Mr. Brian Horn dated March 19, 2003. Your letter stated plans to remove balances of Government-owned nuclear material from licensee accounts that have been deactivated. These accounts have apparently been closed inappropriately in the Nuclear Materials Management and Safeguards System (NMMSS) because the identified accounts have either a positive or negative balance. A brief review of the information enclosed with your letter reveals that several of these inactive accounts have an active U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) license. As discussed in our letter to you dated March 1, 2002, your agency should not take actions that result in a change to the NMMSS inventory of nuclear material held by an NRC or Agreement State licensee without prior written agreement from NRC, unless the appropriate transaction data is submitted by the licensee. Pending the completion of our review of the information provided by your letter and consistent with our March 1, 2002, letter, we request that you do not initiate the proposed actions.

Please contact me at (301) 415-7298 if you have any questions on this matter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Robert A. Nelson, Chief
Fuel Cycle and Special Security Programs Section
Division of Nuclear Security
Office of Nuclear Security
and Incident Response

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