

January 30, 2006

Mr. William L. Wheeler, SHPO
Associate Director
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
1 Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, IL 62701-1512

SUBJECT: INITIATION OF SECTION 106 PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED LICENSE
RENEWAL OF HONEYWELL'S METROPOLIS WORKS FACILITY,
METROPOLIS, ILLINOIS

Dear Mr. Wheeler:

By letter dated May 27, 2005, Honeywell International, Inc. (Honeywell) submitted a license renewal application to the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to continue operations at their Metropolis Works (MTW) facility near Metropolis, Illinois. Honeywell's license renewal application contained an Environmental Report (ER) that was used to support the development of a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the MTW facility license renewal. The NRC staff has developed the draft EA in conjunction with the review of this license renewal application. The proposed action is the renewal of the Honeywell Source Material License SUB-526 for 10 years. With this renewal, the MTW facility will continue to convert natural uranium ore concentrates into uranium hexafluoride (UF_6) for the commercial nuclear power industry. The production of UF_6 is one phase in the fuel cycle resulting in production of fuel elements for nuclear reactors.

The 405-hectare (1,000-acre) MTW site is located approximately 1.6 kilometers (1 mile) northwest of the Metropolis city limits, along the northern bank of the Ohio River in Massac County, Illinois. The primary site perimeter is formed by U.S. Highway 45 to the north, the Ohio River to the south, an industrial coal blending plant to the west and privately-owned, developed land to the east. Honeywell also owns approximately 40.5 hectares (100 acres) of land directly across U.S. Highway 45, north-northeast of the plant. The site can be located on the U.S. Geological Survey Joppa Quadrangle. Excerpts from the U.S. Geological Survey Joppa Quadrangle map depicting the site location (ER Figure 1.0-1, Site Map) and approximate site boundary (ER Figure 3.4-1, Topographic and Hydrologic Features) are attached to this letter. Plant operations are conducted in a fenced restricted area covering approximately 22 hectares (54 acres) in the north-central portion of the site.

The area of potential effect (APE) for this license renewal action is the area of the facility site and the immediate environs that may be impacted by post-license renewal land-disturbing operation or projected activities associated with the proposed action. The staff views the APE for the MTW facility license renewal application as including the MTW site and the immediate environs. The licensee has no plans to increase facility effluents or emissions, or to expand the facility beyond the existing 22-hectare (54-acre), fenced, restricted area within the 405-hectare (1,000-acre) site. However, should the licensee plan any future construction activities, the licensee's ER states that archaeological surveys must be undertaken prior to initiation of new

construction projects planned for areas that are outside of the current development footprint or that would take place in a previously undeveloped area.

The following excerpt from the licensee's ER describes archaeological or historical significant sites that are near the MTW site:

"3.1.5 Archaeologically or Historically Significant Sites

According to [the NRC's 1995 EA for the MTW license renewal] two sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places are located in the area. The Elijah P. Curtis House is within the City of Metropolis about one mile southeast from the plant. This site is a two story brick home constructed in 1870 by a local Civil War veteran that now houses the Massac County Historical Society.

Fort Massac, for which the county was named, is about four miles upriver in Fort Massac State Park on the banks of the Ohio River. Fort Massac is the oldest state park in Illinois and the fort itself was ordered restored by George Washington when he became President of the United States.

Since the above was published, a third National Register site has been added to the list. It is located east-southeast of Brookport, Illinois (approximately 7.5 miles southeast of the MTW facility). Known as the "Kincaid Mounds", it consists of 19 prehistoric mounds that rise about 30 feet above an otherwise flat riverbottom along Avery Lake. The mounds date from the Mississippian period that flourished around AD 1050-1400.

There are no state-listed historic sites in the immediate area of the MTW facility."

The NRC's evaluation of cultural resources impacts, as provided in Section 4.1.1.1 of the draft EA, follows:

"Cultural Resources

Operation of the MTW facility has not affected regional historic or cultural resources. The proposed action would not result in any additional impacts to the regional historic and cultural resources because the facility already exists, and no expansion into areas not previously disturbed is associated with this license renewal. Archaeological surveys must be undertaken prior to initiation of new construction projects planned for areas that are outside of the current development footprint or that would take place in a previously undeveloped area. Continued normal operation of the facility is also not expected to have any impact on these resources."

As required by 36 CFR 800.4(a), the NRC is requesting the views of the State Historic Preservation Officer on further actions to identify cultural and historic properties that may be affected by the NRC's proposed action to renew the license to allow continued operations at the MTW facility. To support a timely review of the Honeywell license renewal application, the NRC staff is requesting that the information regarding cultural and historic properties be provided

within 30 days. After assessing the information provided by you, we will determine what additional actions are necessary to comply with the Section 106 consultation process.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Neil Haggerty of my staff by telephone at (301) 415-5196, or by e-mail at nxh3@nrc.gov. Written response can be provided to: B. Jennifer Davis, c/o Document Control Desk, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Mailstop T-7J08, Washington DC, 20555-0001. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

/RA/

B. Jennifer Davis, Chief
Environmental Review Section
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 40-3392
License No.: SUB-526

Enclosure: Environmental Report, Renewal of
Source Material License SUB-526 Fig. 1.0-1
Site Map, Figure 3.4-1 Topographic
and Hydrologic Features (ML060240161)

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Division of Waste Management
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Office of Nuclear Material Safety
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Docket No.: 40-3392
License No.: SUB-526

Enclosure: Enclosure: Environmental Report, Renewal of
Source Material License SUB-526 Fig. 1.0-1
Site Map, Figure 3.4-1 Topographic
and Hydrologic Features (ML060240161)

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DATE	01/30/06	01/30/06	