



June 14, 2012  
AET 12-0036

ATTN: Document Control Desk  
Ms. Catherine Haney, Director  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

**American Centrifuge Lead Cascade Facility  
Docket Number 70-7003; License Number SNM-7003  
American Centrifuge Lead Cascade Facility Operational Plans**

Dear Ms. Haney:

**Purpose**

The purpose of this letter is to notify the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) of USEC Inc.'s (USEC) intent to continue to operate the American Centrifuge Lead Cascade Facility (Lead Cascade).

**Background**

On May 20, 2011 (Reference 1), USEC requested the NRC's review for renewal of Materials License SNM-7003 for the Lead Cascade in accordance with 10 *Code of Federal Regulations* 70.73. As discussed with NRC staff on May 26, 2011 (Reference 2) the intent was to continue the same operations (i.e., authorized activities) under the license by renewing the license for an additional five years. However, it was not anticipated that operations would go beyond one more year (i.e., mid 2012). In Reference 3, the NRC completed the acceptance review of Reference 1 and stated the following:

*"... because of the expected license termination request, the NRC will not conduct a detailed review of USEC's license renewal request at this time. Should USEC determine that operations need to be extended for a longer period of time, the NRC requests that USEC inform NRC of this determination. The NRC will at that time, determine if it will proceed to perform a detailed review of USEC's submittal."*

USEC Inc.  
American Centrifuge Plant  
3930 U.S. Route 23 South – P.O. Box 628, Piketon, OH 45661  
<http://www.usec.com>

NMSSDI

**Discussion**

As briefly discussed with NRC staff on April 19, 2012 during the on-site visit related to the Licensee Performance Review of the Lead Cascade, USEC plans to continue operations under the NRC Materials License for the Lead Cascade during the U.S. Department of Energy/American Centrifuge Demonstration (ACD) project to validate the technical readiness of the centrifuge technology for commercialization. Based on the current schedule, USEC intends to operate the Lead Cascade through calendar year 2013, assuming full funding of the ACD project. Of course our plans could change, depending on the availability of funding. We will routinely keep NRC staff informed regarding project scope and schedule.

**Action**

No specific action is requested. USEC is notifying NRC as requested via Reference 3 so NRC can make its determination regarding conducting the license renewal review.

**Contact**

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (301) 564-3470 or Vernon Shanks at (270) 441-6039.

Sincerely,



Peter J. Miner  
Director, Regulatory and Quality Assurance

cc: J. Calle, NRC RII  
J. Downs, NRC HQ  
L. Pitts, NRC RII  
O. Siurano, NRC HQ  
B. Smith, NRC HQ

**References:**

1. USEC letter AET 11-0028 from P.J. Miner to C. Haney (NRC) regarding Submittal of Request for Renewal of Materials License for the American Centrifuge Lead Cascade Facility, dated May 20, 2011
2. NRC letter from O. Siurano to B.W. Smith (NRC) regarding May 25, 2011, Conference Call Summary: Discussion of USEC Inc. American Centrifuge Lead Cascade Facility's License Renewal, date June 16, 2011
3. NRC letter from B.W. Smith to P.J. Miner (USEC) regarding Submittal of USEC Inc. Request for Renewal of Materials License for the American Centrifuge Lead Cascade Facility (TAC No. L33142), undated