



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION II**
245 PEACHTREE CENTER AVENUE NE, SUITE 1200
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-1257

July 13, 2012

CAL No. 2-2012-002

Mr. Larry Smith
Plant Manager
Honeywell Metropolis Works
P.O. Box 430
Metropolis, IL 62960

**SUBJECT: CONFIRMATORY ACTION LETTER-HONEYWELL FACILITY COMMITMENTS
TO RESOLVE SAFETY CONCERNS BEFORE RESTARTING NRC LICENSED
OPERATIONS**

Dear Mr. Smith:

The purpose of this letter is to confirm the written commitments made by Honeywell Metropolis Works in the enclosed letter dated, July 11, 2012, and in discussions with members of my staff on July 12, 2012, regarding actions you will take to resolve safety concerns prior to restarting U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) licensed operations at your Metropolis, Illinois, facility. The commitments documented herein are intended to ensure that your revised Emergency Response Plan is consistent with Honeywell Metropolis Works design and operational limitations for all potentially affected processes before licensed operations resume.

During an NRC inspection at Honeywell Metropolis Works conducted from May 21 through July 11, 2012, NRC inspectors identified that, when the facility is operating, the amount of uranium hexafluoride (UF₆) that could be released during a credible seismic event or tornado was significantly larger than that assumed in the development of the facility's Emergency Response Plan. During our on-site inspection, NRC inspectors identified that the design of the process equipment in the Feed Materials Building lacked seismic restraints, supports, and bracing that would assure process equipment integrity during a credible seismic event, or tornado. Your staff conducted an assessment of the NRC's concern and agreed that the amount of UF₆ that could be released during a credible event would be significantly larger than previously assumed in the bases for the Emergency Response Plan.

Honeywell Metropolis Works facility has been shutdown since May 9, 2012, for a planned maintenance outage; therefore, there is no immediate safety concern. Pursuant to the written commitments from Honeywell on July 11, 2012, and discussions between NRC management and you on July 12, 2012, it is our understanding that you have taken (or will take) the following actions:

1. Suspend all NRC licensed operations involving a phase change of solid UF₆ or quantities of liquid UF₆ in excess of 290 pounds (the quantity analyzed in the Emergency Response Plan as referred in your license SUB-526) until you have completed your analysis of the issue and developed and implemented corrective actions, including actions to ensure that the facility Emergency Response Plan adequately protects public health and safety.

2. Obtain written consent from the NRC permitting the resumption of NRC licensed operation specified in Item (1) above.

As we discussed with you during the July 12, 2012, teleconference, you committed to inform NRC of your corrective actions and the associated implementation schedule such that NRC has sufficient time to inspect the adequacy of the corrective actions, including reviewing any modifications to the facility as well as Honeywell's Emergency Response Plan. Based on this inspection and assessment, the NRC will determine the acceptability of conducting operations that exceed the analyzed quantity in the Emergency Response Plan, described in Item (1) above. We will inform you of the results in writing.

In addition, the NRC acknowledges that some solid UF₆ is currently present in process equipment which may require some limited operations. Prior to conducting operations that exceed the analyzed quantity in the Emergency Response Plan, described in Item (1) above, you shall submit a safety protocol plan and obtain written NRC approval.

Pursuant to Section 182 of the Atomic Energy Act, 42 U.S.C. 2232, you are required to:

1. Notify me immediately if your understanding differs from that set forth above;
2. Notify me if for any reason you cannot complete the actions within the specified schedule and advise me in writing of your modified schedule in advance of the change; and
3. Notify me in writing when you have completed the actions addressed in this Confirmatory Action Letter.

Issuance of this Confirmatory Action Letter does not preclude issuance of an order formalizing the above commitments or requiring other actions on the part of Honeywell; nor does it preclude the NRC from taking enforcement action for violations of NRC requirements that may have prompted the issuance of this letter.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the NRC's document system (ADAMS), accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. To the extent possible, your response should not include any personal privacy, proprietary, or safeguards information so that it can be made available to the Public without redaction. If personal privacy or proprietary information is necessary to provide an acceptable response, then please provide a bracketed copy of your response that identifies the information that should be protected and a redacted copy of your response that deletes such information. If you request withholding of such material, you must specifically identify the portions of your response that you seek to have withheld and provide in detail the bases for your claim of withholding (e.g., explain why the disclosure of information will create an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy or provide the information required by 10 CFR 2.390(b) to support a request for withholding confidential commercial or financial information). If safeguards information is necessary to provide an acceptable response, please provide the level of protection described in 10 CFR 73.21.

L. Smith

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Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Mr. Joselito Calle at (404) 997-4418.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Victor M. McCree
Regional Administrator

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

cc: (See page 4)

cc cont'd:

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Letter to Mr. Larry Smith from Victor M. McCree dated July 13, 2012

SUBJECT: CONFIRMATORY ACTION LETTER-HONEYWELL FACILITY COMMITMENTS
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OPERATIONS

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L. Smith

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Sincerely,

/RA/

Victor M. McCree
Regional Administrator

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

cc: (See page 4)

*see previous concurrence

■ PUBLICLY AVAILABLE

☐ NON-PUBLICLY AVAILABLE ☐ SENSITIVE ☒ NON-SENSITIVE

ADAMS: ☐ Yes ACCESSION NUMBER: _ML12198A109 ■ SUNSI REVIEW COMPLETE ■ FORM 665 ATTACHED

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DATE	7/12/2012	7/12/2012	7/12/2012	7/12/2012	7/12/2012	7/12/2012	7/ /2012
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