



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

August 23, 2018

Mr. Douglas Rhodd, Chairman
Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma
20 White Eagle Drive
Ponca City, OK 74601

SUBJECT: UPDATE REGARDING U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION'S
LETTER OF JULY 3, 2018, REGARDING HONEYWELL INTERNATIONAL'S
REQUEST FOR RENEWAL OF ITS LICENSE FOR THE HONEYWELL
METROPOLIS WORKS URANIUM CONVERSION FACILITY IN METROPOLIS,
ILLINOIS (DOCKET NUMBER: 40-3392)

Dear Chairman Rhodd:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) continues its activities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act as discussed in our letter to the Ponca Tribe dated July 3, 2018.¹ The action concerns Honeywell International, Inc.'s (Honeywell) request to renew its source materials license SUB-526 for a period of 40 years. The purpose of this letter is to provide the Ponca Tribe with an update on the proposed license renewal action.

The NRC staff is reviewing the proposed license renewal action and its potential effects on the environment. In consultation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the NRC has made a preliminary determination under Paragraph 800.3(a)(1) of Title 36 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* on potential effects. The preliminary determination is that the proposed license renewal would not cause effects on historic or cultural resources on the Honeywell property. Because impacts are not anticipated, the NRC does not consider surveys to be needed for the preparation of the environmental assessment of the proposed action.

The proposed renewal of Honeywell's license does not involve ground-disturbing activities on the facility property. No modifications to the site or its surroundings, such as construction or demolition of structures, are planned. Honeywell's NRC-licensed uranium conversion activities occur within the fenced, 24-hectare (59-acre) portion of the site, which was heavily disturbed during construction of the facility over 50 years ago. In addition, no changes in the operations of the facility are planned during the license renewal period.

The NRC would appreciate any information the Ponca Tribe has, and is willing to share, regarding places of potential tribal, cultural, or religious significance on the Honeywell property or in the immediate vicinity. The NRC seeks this information to assist the staff in the development of the environmental assessment for the current action.

¹ Invitation to the Ponca Tribe to Section 106 Consultation, dated July 3, 2018 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management [ADAMS] Accession Number ML18184A282); also accessible at <https://www.nrc.gov/docs/ML1818/ML18184A282.pdf>.

Please let us know if the Ponca Tribe has any questions about our preliminary determination that the proposed license renewal action is not the type of activity that would affect cultural and historic properties, or places of potential tribal, cultural, or religious significance.

Concerning a separate matter, in the July 3, 2018 letter, the NRC noted that Honeywell proposed the construction of a rail spur outside the fenced area, along the western side of the facility. The proposed rail spur would facilitate the removal of wastes from four settling ponds within the fenced area and shipment of these wastes to an offsite facility. The pond waste removal project is presently under the jurisdiction of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. However, the NRC is reviewing additional information related to this project to determine whether the NRC should have a regulatory role regarding waste removal and pond closure activities.

If, in the future, Honeywell seeks modifications to its NRC-licensed operations that involve ground disturbance on the site, these changes would be subject to the appropriate State and/or Federal reviews and approvals. The NRC would make safety and environmental determinations as part of any NRC license amendment review, prior to making a regulatory decision. An assessment of potential impacts on cultural and historic properties, or places of potential tribal, cultural, or religious significance would be part of the NRC's environmental review. The NRC would initiate communication with the Ponca Tribe and other interested tribes regarding potential effects on resources of significance to tribes.

Please note NRC policy classifies correspondence with the NRC as publicly available information, including personal email addresses or personal contact information. If the Ponca Tribe wants sensitive tribal information that it provides to the NRC to be withheld from public disclosure, please advise the NRC staff. If tribal officials do not want personal contact information to be made public, please use an alternate email address or alternate contact information when corresponding with the NRC.

Honeywell's application for the license renewal is publicly available in the NRC Public Document Room located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852, or electronically from the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). The ADAMS Public Electronic Reading Room is accessible at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. The ADAMS Accession Number for the application is ML17048A263. You may also access the application at <https://www.nrc.gov/docs/ML1700/ML17048A263.pdf>. The NRC's letter accepting the Honeywell application for technical review is available at ADAMS Accession Number ML17111A740. You may access the document directly at <https://www.nrc.gov/docs/ML1711/ML17111A740.pdf>. A copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room and ADAMS.

If you have any questions or need additional information about the proposed licensing action or

the environmental review process, please contact Ms. Christine Pineda, Project Manager for the Environmental Assessment, at (301) 415-6789 or via e-mail at Christine.Pineda@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

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Craig G. Erlanger, Director
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety, Safeguards,
and Environmental Review
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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

cc: Ms. Halona Cabe, THPO

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DATED: August 23, 2018

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