



NUCLEAR METALS, INC.

8 October 1996

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region I
475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406-1415

Attention: Dr. Ronald R. Bellamy, Chief
Decommissioning and Laboratory Safety Branch, Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

References: License Numbers SMB-179 and SUB-1452 (Docket Numbers 040-00672 and 040-08866)
USNRC Letter to NMI Dated 18 September 1996.

Reply to a Notice of Violation

Dear Dr. Bellamy:

This is in response to the Notice of Violation resulting from the inspection of 6-10 March 1996.

- (1) The number of documented weekly audits performed by the Health and Safety staff were less than the number required in the SMB-179 Condition 17 reference letter dated 17 February 1984.

We take no exception to the findings detailed for this violation. Our description of the Health and Safety staff audits as contained within our most recent license renewal package best represents an effective audit structure based upon the present status of licensed operations at the facility. Until such time that this most recent renewal package is approved, our staff, which for years has been at half the size of the 1984 staffing level based on significantly reduced business volume, will be scheduled at the audit frequency described in the existing license.

- (2) The daily variance checks for the beta channel of a counting system was not performed during March-November 1995.

We take no exception to the findings detailed for this violation. The analytical printout of the specified counting system automatically and simultaneously issues an alpha as well as a beta result for each sample counted. The log book reviewed by the inspector only had the alpha results transcribed. Since the finding, both alpha and beta results, which have always been known to the daily auditor, are being entered into the logbook, and compared against established tolerance criteria.

If there are any questions regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff.

Sincerely,

Frank J. Vumbaco
Frank J. Vumbaco
Vice President, Health and Safety

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