

September 26, 1996

Mr. Robert L. Woolley, Manager
Nuclear Regulatory Assurance and Policy
U. S. Enrichment Corporation
2 Democracy Center
6903 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, MD 20817

Dear Mr. Woolley:

As you know, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff and the U.S. Enrichment Corporation (USEC) briefed the Commission on August 28, 1996, on certification of the USEC gaseous diffusion plants. Following that meeting, the Commission directed the staff to: (1) seek further action by USEC and the Department of Energy (DOE) to reduce DOE-owned materials, equipment, and wastes in USEC space, and to encourage an aggressive schedule for consolidation of the DOE-owned material and its removal from USEC leased space, and (2) to determine if material contamination is present to the extent that a potential safety concern could be created during use or processing. A copy of the Staff Requirements Memorandum (SRM) is enclosed for your information.

The Compliance Plan addresses the issue of DOE-owned material in USEC leased space. The Plan requires USEC to demarcate the location and boundaries of the DOE material storage areas, and return the areas to DOE (as unleased areas) by December 31, 1996. DOE will be responsible for oversight and assuring safety for these unleased storage areas. We request that USEC and DOE confirm the schedule for completing these Compliance Plan requirements. Also, in view of the Commission's directive, we encourage USEC and DOE to complete these activities ahead of schedule if feasible.

In addition, we request that you provide a description of your programs for evaluating radioactive contaminants in feed material at both sites, and assuring that contaminants are controlled so that they do not cause a safety problem during use or processing.

In order for us to respond promptly to the Commission, we request that you reply by October 4, 1996. Questions may be directed to me or John Hickey at 301-415-7192.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By
Elizabeth Q. Ten Eyck, Director
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
and Safeguards

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Enclosure: SRM dated 9/13/96
Docket Nos. 70-7001 & 70-7002

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OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON D C 20555

September 12, 1996

MEMORANDUM TO: James M. Taylor
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: *John C. Hoyte*
John C. Hoyte, Secretary

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - SECY-96-180 -
CERTIFICATION OF GASEOUS DIFFUSION PLANTS

The Commission has approved the staff proceeding with issuance of the Federal Register notice regarding certification of the U.S. Enrichment Corporation's (USEC) gaseous diffusion plants (GDPs), and proceeding with certification if no petition is received by the end of the designated 15-day period. The Federal Register notice should be revised to reflect the changes noted in Mr. Taylor's August 21, 1996, memorandum to the Commission concerning the date for jurisdiction transfer and the revised steps for issuing certification.

(EDO)

(SECY Suspense: 10/18/96)

During the transition period, before NRC assumes jurisdiction, the staff should seek further action by USEC and/or the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to reduce DOE-owned materials, equipment, and wastes in USEC-space. The staff should encourage an aggressive schedule for consolidation of the DOE-owned material and its removal from USEC leased space. The staff should also determine if material contamination is present to the extent that a potential safety concern could be created during use or processing.

(EDO)

(SECY Suspense: 10/18/96)

The staff should revise the letters to Congress as follows:

1. NRC's initial annual report to Congress should be issued in one year (rather than six months). A full year will allow NRC to gain more experience in regulating the GDPs and to review the upgraded safety analysis report due out in February 1997.

SECY NOTE: THIS SRM, SECY-96-180, AND THE VOTE SHEETS OF ALL COMMISSIONERS WILL BE MADE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE 5 WORKING DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THIS SRM.

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2. The Congressional letters should be prepared as Commission correspondence.

EDO)

SECY suspense: 10 18 96

cc: Chairman Jackson
Commissioner Rogers
Commissioner Dicus
Commissioner Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
OGC
OCA
OIG
Office Directors, Regions, ACRS, ACNW, ASLBP (via E-Mail)