

February 7, 1997

Mr. George P. Rifakes
Executive Vice President, Operations
United States Enrichment Corporation
2 Democracy Center
6903 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, Maryland 20817

Dear Mr. Rifakes:

I am responding to your letter dated January 15, 1997, in which you provided comments for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's consideration in developing procedures to implement the backfit provisions in 10 CFR 76.76. We also briefly discussed this matter during our management meeting on January 16, 1997. We are currently in the process of preparing procedures for our use in implementing the backfit provisions of 10 CFR 76.76 and we will consider the comments you offered in the January 15, 1997, letter and the January 16, 1997, meeting in this development activity. I do not believe a meeting is appropriate at this time to discuss our development of these procedures. However, you will be provided an opportunity in the near future to provide public comment on the backfit procedures.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

Carl J. Paperiello, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Dockets 70-7001 & 70-7002

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Mr. George P. Rifakes
Executive Vice President, Operations
United States Enrichment Corporation
2 Democracy Center
6903 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, Maryland 20817

Dear Mr. Rifakes:

I am responding to your letter dated January 15, 1997, in which you requested a meeting with NRC staff to discuss procedures for implementation of the provisions for backfitting in 10 CFR 76.76.

We are presently developing procedures for implementation of 10 CFR 76.76, and plan to forward them to the Commission for their review prior to March 3, 1997, the date when NRC will assume regulatory jurisdiction over USEC's activities at the gaseous diffusion plants from the U.S. Department of Energy. Until that time, the staff's draft procedures are predecisional and not available for public disclosure. Therefore, a meeting at this time would be inappropriate. We will consider the thoughts expressed in your letter as we proceed to finalize our backfit procedures, and will notify you when our procedures are publicly available. At that time we can discuss whether you feel a meeting would still be mutually beneficial.

Sincerely,

Carl J. Paperiello, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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