

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
NOTICE OF TRANSITION OF  
REGULATORY AUTHORITY OVER THE  
U.S. ENRICHMENT CORPORATION  
GASEOUS DIFFUSION PLANTS  
DOCKET NOS. 70-7001 AND 70-7002

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission assumed regulatory jurisdiction, from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), over the United States Enrichment Corporation (USEC) gaseous diffusion plants (GDPs) located in Paducah, Kentucky, and Piketon, Ohio, at 12:01 a.m. on March 3, 1997.

The President signed H.R. 776, the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (the Act), into law on October 24, 1992. The Act amended the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, to establish a new government corporation, USEC, for the purpose of operating the uranium enrichment enterprise owned and previously operated by DOE. The Act provided that NRC would promulgate standards that apply to USEC's operation of its GDPs, to protect public health and safety from radiological hazards, and to provide for the common defense and security. The Act directed NRC to establish and implement a certification process under which NRC would certify the GDPs for compliance with these standards. DOE agreed to retain nuclear safety, safeguards, and security oversight of the GDPs until NRC finished its certification process.

On September 16, 1996, the Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (Director) signed the initial certification decision. Notice of this decision appeared in the Federal Register (61FR49360) on September 19, 1996. The Director signed the final Certificates of Compliance for the GDPs on November 26, 1996. The Certificates of Compliance provided for a transition period before NRC's assuming regulatory authority, to allow USEC to complete necessary procedure revision and training on the NRC-approved application. DOE continued regulatory oversight during this transition period. The transition period ended at midnight on March 2, 1997. NRC assumed regulatory oversight at the GDPs at 12:01 am (local time) on March 3, 1997.

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NRC has not assumed regulatory jurisdiction over the entire Paducah and Portsmouth reservations. DOE retains regulatory jurisdiction over those portions of both sites that have activities unrelated to the enrichment process and that are not leased by USEC. Examples of activities for which DOE retains responsibility are environmental restoration activities, cylinder storage yards that contain depleted UF<sub>6</sub> generated before July 1993, and activities related to highly enriched uranium.

All correspondence related to the GDPs, except for proprietary and classified information, is available for public inspection and copying at the Commission Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20555 it is also available at the Local Public Document Rooms, under Docket No. 70-7001, at the Paducah Public Library, 555 Washington Street, Paducah, Kentucky 42003; and under Docket No. 70-7002, at the Portsmouth Public Library, 1220 Gallia Street, Portsmouth, Ohio 45662.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 3rd day of March 1997.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
**Original Signed By**

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

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\*See previous concurrence

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Carl J. Paperiello, Director  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
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DATE	2/12/97		2/12/97		2/17/97	2/27/97	2/28/97	1/1/97	

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