

70-7001



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

February 20, 1997

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

SUBJECT: TECHNICAL SAFETY REQUIREMENT CLARIFICATION - TSR 2.4.4.12-8

Dear Mr. Woolley:

Your January 24, 1997, letter informed the NRC of a USEC clarification on a Technical Safety Requirement (TSR) surveillance. The TSR clarification addresses application of TSR Surveillance Requirement 2.4.4.12-8 for cells shutdown on the day of transition from Department of Energy Operational Safety Requirements to NRC TSRs. Although your letter did not request a response from the NRC, we are providing our assessment of your TSR clarification.

TSR Surveillance Requirement 2.4.4.12-8 requires the use of the ACR motor stop button for planned cell shutdowns. It is clear from a reading of the TSR and the TSR basis that the TSR does not specifically address the issue of cells that were shutdown at the time of transition. The intent of the surveillance is to demonstrate the reliability of the cell trip function by utilizing the system for planned shutdowns. There are cells that were shutdown prior to transition that were not shutdown using the ACR motor stop button. Since the TSR does not provide an alternate method by which to demonstrate operability, it is not possible to meet the surveillance requirement for those cells while the cell is shutdown.

USEC performed a clarification that provided an alternate means to meet the intent of the TSR surveillance requirement. The method would test the cell shutdown system by actuating the ACR motor stop button to open the breakers to verify the cell trip functions correctly while the cell is shutdown. The proposed testing of the circuit prior to restart of the cells appears logical and safety focused, and is consistent with the intent of the TSR surveillance. However, the TSR clarification also changes the applicability of the TSR and would require prior NRC approval. Issuance of a TSR clarification is inappropriate in this instance. We strongly encourage USEC to submit a revised TSR to reflect the proposed surveillance.

Please note that while TSR clarifications can be useful to plant staff to more fully understand the requirement of a TSR, the clarifications do not have NRC acknowledgement and have no legal authority. TSR clarifications must never contradict or change the wording, the meaning, or the intent of a TSR requirement. In order for the staff to recognize a TSR clarification, it

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R. L. Woolley, USEC

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would be necessary for USEC to (1) submit a certificate amendment to change the TSR wording; (2) change the TSR basis statement via 76.68; or (3) obtain a written interpretation from the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards regarding the intent of the TSR requirement.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Merri Horn of my staff at (301 415-8126).

Sincerely,

**Original Signed By**

Robert C. Pierson, Chief  
Special Projects Branch  
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety  
and Safeguards

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Certificate GDP-1

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