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Westinghouse
Electric Corporation

Lamp Divisions

1978 SEP 13 AM 11 26

One Westinghouse Plaza
Bloomfield New Jersey 07003

Sept. 11, 1978

40-2286

Mr. Earl G. Wright
Radioisotopes Licensing Branch
Division of Fuel, Cycle and Material Safety
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 23555

U.S. NUC. REG.
COMMISSION
RMSS MAIL SECTION

Dear Mr. Wright:

The W Lamp Plant at Bloomfield, N. J. has been issued NRC License SMB-353 which permits us to store 2482 kilograms of thorium oxide and thorium nitrate. We are requesting that the license be amended to include the the storage and use of 136 kg of thorium metal powder. This quantity when added to the 1600 kg of thorium oxide and nitrate now on hand will equal approximately 70% of the permitted amount.

The thorium metal powder will be used to make thorium sheet and/or rod. The use of thorium metal powder rather than thorium oxide will enable us to eliminate the combining with calcium metal, firing the mixture in an atmosphere oven, acetic acid and water wash, oven drying, crushing and sieving operations; thus, greatly reducing the possibility for surface contamination and airborne dust. The application for the license renewal submitted 2/15/78 would be changed as follows to reflect the storage and use of the metal powder.

- 7-c. Will read "Thorium metal powder will be used to make thorium sheet and/or rod."
- 8-b. Add - thorium metal powder
- 9-c. Will read "Thorium metal powder is pressed into ingots, the ingot sintered and cold rolled into sheet or rod. This is an infrequently performed operation requiring approximately 40 manhours per year. The pressing of the powder into an ingot is done under an exhaust hood which discharges through ultra-filters on the roof of the building. Personnel air samples, exhaust stack discharge air samples and smears of walking and working surfaces are made monthly. These samples are evaluated in a scintillation counter at the W Industrial Hygiene Lab in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The results are reported to the Bloomfield Plant."

The balance of the renewal application remains as written. Thank you for your help in this matter.

Very truly yours,

R. T. Williams

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2118 exempt
Part of renewal
pending