

70-1257

**From:** "Edgar, Jim" <Jim\_Edgar@nfuel.com>  
**To:** Paul Lain <pwl@nrc.gov>  
**Date:** Fri, Nov 12, 1999 6:27 PM  
**Subject:** Answers to Julie's Questions on Fertilizer Sale

Paul,

In the attached file are SPC's answers to the two questions from Julie that you e-mailed to me on 11/10. Any more questions, call me (or e-mail me).  
Jim <<nrc fertilizer ans.rtf>>

**CC:** "Maas, Loren" <Loren\_Maas@nfuel.com>, "Koegler, Sy..."

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1. SPC estimated, on 8/31, based on the best information at the time, that we would sell approximately 480,000 gallons of ammonium hydroxide-ammonium nitrate solution per year as fertilizer. This was based on two six-week campaigns per year during the best time to sell fertilizer. This represented the amount of solution we would generate from the recovery of approximately 50 MTU of scrap. We are now estimating producing about 9000 gallons/day or 45000 gallons/week, so the 12 week production is expected to be more on the order of 540000 gallons annually. As we mentioned in the 8/31 e-mail, when we couldn't sell the ADU effluent (ammonium hydroxide-ammonium nitrate solution) for direct use as fertilizer, we would process the solution through ARF to recover the ammonia and then sewer the ARF liquid effluent. It appears now that there may be a party interested in our full time production of the fertilizer solution. If this turns out to be true, we would expect to sell about four times the 540000 gallons annually.

2. SPC is not foregoing the use of ARF to avoid reducing the U concentration in the ammonia hydroxide-ammonia nitrate solution. In fact, it costs SPC more not to run this material through ARF because SPC has to purchase additional ammonia for input to its ADU process that it would otherwise have recovered in ARF. Because SPC has entered into a consent decree with the Washington State Department of Ecology and the EPA to have the lagoons closed on a specific schedule, we need the ARF capacity to process the lagoon contents to meet the schedule. Any competition for ARF capacity (e.g., removal of ammonia from ADU scrap recovery effluent) will put us in jeopardy of not meeting the consent decree schedule. Of course, the direct sale of the ADU effluent for fertilizer usage offers the additional environmental advantage of recycling the nitrates into a useful product as opposed to sewerage them.