

July 17, 2001

Mr. Peter Hastings, Licensing Manager  
Duke Cogema Stone & Webster  
P.O. Box 31847  
Charlotte, NC 28231-1847

SUBJECT: MIXED OXIDE FUEL FABRICATION FACILITY ADDITIONAL SITE  
EXPLORATION

Dear Mr. Hastings:

We reviewed your letter of June 29, 2001, in which you identified additional site exploration activities needed to further characterize soil properties in the area of the proposed Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility. These activities would be intended to support the preparation of the application for operations.

We agree that these activities do not constitute "commencement of construction" as defined under 10 CFR 70.23(a)(7). That is, the proposed activities constitute site exploration, construction of roads necessary for site exploration, and borings to determine foundation conditions. We also agree that the proposed activities are allowable under 10 CFR Part 51.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-7299.

Sincerely,

***/RA BY Wilkins R. Smith for:/***

Timothy C. Johnson  
Senior Mechanical Systems Engineer  
Enrichment Section  
Special Projects Branch  
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety  
and Safeguards  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

Docket: 70-3098

cc: R. Ihde, DCS  
J. Johnson, DOE  
H. Potter, SC Dept. of HEC  
J. Conway, DNFBSB  
D. Moniak, BREDL  
E. Foster  
R. Thomas, Environmentalists, Inc.  
G. Carroll, GANE

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