

October 31, 2003

Kenneth V. Meyer
Senior Vice President for Quality
Hunt Valve Company
1913 E. State Street
Salem, Ohio 44460

Dear Mr. Meyer,

Thank you for your letter of September 22, 2003. We appreciate your feedback on the public meeting conducted on September 16, 2003, regarding NRC Bulletin 2003-003, "Potentially Defective 1-Inch Valves for Uranium Hexafluoride Cylinders," including the information you provided concerning the NRC News Item 03-112.

In response to your suggestion regarding the possibility of NRC conducting a "quality system audit" at Hunt Valve Company, the responsibility for inspecting the acceptability of a supplier's quality assurance program rests with any NRC licensee/certificate holder who intends to use that supplier's products in NRC-regulated activities. At such time that Hunt products are once again used in NRC-regulated activities, the NRC may decide then to inspect the quality assurance program of the NRC licensee/certificate holder, and that inspection might include visits to Hunt facilities.

Your letter also raised a concern regarding the number of Hunt Valves that failed the hydrostatic pressure test described in ANSI N14.1. Your letter states that USEC Summary Report dated May 20, 2003 (ML031480846), your Reference (B), discussed only a single valve seat leakage failure. The referenced report describes that during root cause evaluation of the single valve seat leakage failure, additional valves were tested and several more failed the hydrostatic pressure test. These reported failures were not the sole basis for issuance of Bulletin 2003-03. The Bulletin discusses the NRC staff concerns regarding Hunt's QA program being able to assure that Hunt 1-inch valves already shipped meet the ANSI N14.1 Standard.

If you have any further questions, please contact Lance Lessler, of my staff, at (301) 415-8144.

Sincerely yours,

/RA/

Robert C. Pierson, Director
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
and Safeguards
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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