

Specialty Materials

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March 16, 2004

Mr. Jay Henson, Region II
Sam Nunn Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street SW, Suite 23T85
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8931

Re: Equipment Pre-Check for Ore Prep
License No. SUB-526
Docket No. 040-03392

Dear Mr. Henson:

During plant shutdown on December 22, 2003, ore concentrates in the Ore Preparation section of the plant were not removed from bins, rotating equipment, screw conveyors, elevators, etc. This equipment was stopped and shut down in an "as is" condition. The state of the material (ore concentrates) in this equipment for the most part is unknown.

In order to understand the condition of our equipment and the state of the material in the feed bins, etc. prior to area re-start, "bumping" of equipment is desired.

All bag houses in this area will be run to confirm the proper level of suction/containment on equipment requiring vacuum to contain airborne contamination prior to any bumping of equipment.

All safety interlocks would also be tested during this time frame to ensure their functionality.

In order to complete a proper analysis of equipment condition to run, some equipment may have to run for several hours. Situations where ore concentrates may be hard in a bin because of moisture infiltration, will be addressed by drumming off into ore concentrates drums.

Hazard Discussion

No chemical streams (mudballing solution) will be introduced during this pre-check process. All ore concentrates will be contained within the process vessels under vacuum from the baghouse and the drumming will be done using our engineered drum filling stations in this area of the plant.

Procedures and Oversight

Standard Operating Procedures do include start-up and shutdown tasks specific to this evolution. Proceduralized tasks will be completed with a procedure "in-hand" approach. The entire evolution is expected to take approximately 2-4 days to complete. A pre-job briefing with the crew on dayshift will be done prior to completion of any task(s) for each day of the evolution. Bumping of equipment will take place on dayshift only. Where a task runs into the afternoon shift, a detailed turnover will be given to the shift coming on.

If instances arise where a task is not covered by a procedure, the STAR process will be utilized, followed by a Task Hazard Analysis and Pre-Job Briefing. If a procedure is necessary, it will be developed before the task is performed.

The evolution will take place during dayshift on Wednesday March 27, 2004 through Saturday March 20th and will be supervised by Process Specialist (SME) Don Heine.

If there are any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at (618) 524 - 6245.

Sincerely,



J.P. Bryan, P.Eng.

Nuclear Services Manager