

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION REGION II SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER 61 FORSYTH STREET SW SUITE 23T85 ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931

March 25, 2004

The Honorable Beth A. Clanahan Mayor of the City of Metropolis City Hall, 106 West Fifth Street Metropolis, Illinois 62960

Dear Mayor Clanahan:

I enjoyed meeting with you, your constituents, and other government officials at the recent public meeting, which was conducted on March 18, 2004, to discuss the operational activities of Honeywell International, Inc., located within the City limits of Metropolis, Illinois. Thank you for your letter dated March 18, 2004, which you provided to us at this meeting, and in which you expressed concern about a number of emergency preparedness related issues.

I am writing to assure you that I, and my staff, are committed to ensuring that Honeywell's NRC licensed activities are carried out in a safe manner, and in full compliance with NRC's requirements. My staff is overseeing all of the necessary components under our jurisdiction which must be completed prior to resuming plant operations, and my approach is to proceed deliberatively, and to authorize the resumption of specific operating activities in a stepwise fashion, to ensure that the company is prepared to resume full operations.

Please note that effective October 1, 2003, the regulatory oversight for the Honeywell Specialty Chemicals Plant was assigned to the Atlanta office of the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Additionally, you can track our activities, including our inspection reports of the Honeywell facility, on our web site which can be accessed at <u>www.nrc.gov</u>.

Again, thank you for your interest in our regulatory programs, and we look forward to fulfilling our common mutual interest of ensuring that the Honeywell, Specialty Chemicals Plant, is operated in a safe manner, and fully consistent with our mandate to protect public health and safety. Please feel free to contact me, members of my staff, or Mr. Robert (Bob) E. Trojanowski, Regional State Liaison Officer. Bob is on my principal staff and works exclusively with State and local governments in areas where we have a need to closely coordinate our activities with them.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (404) 562-4410 or Bob at (404) 562-4427.

Sincerely,

//RA//

Luis A. Reyes Regional Administrator

cc: (See page 2)

Mayor Clanahan

cc: Illinois Emergency Management Agency ATTN: Mr. William Burke, Director 110 E. Adams Springfield, Illinois 62701

> Illinois Emergency Management Agency ATTN: Mr. Gary N. Wright, Director Division of Nuclear Safety 1035 Outer Park Drive Springfield, Illinois 62704 wright@iema.state.il.us

Environmental Protection Agency, Region V ATTN: Mr. Kevin Turner 8588 Rt. 148 Marion, Illinois 62959

Honeywell International, Inc. ATTN: Mr. Rory J. O'Kane, Plant Manager Rt. 45 North Post Office Box 430 Metropolis, Illinois 62960 March 24, 2004

The Honorable Beth A. Clanahan Mayor of the City of Metropolis City Hall, 106 West Fifth Street Metropolis, Illinois 62960

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Distribution:

M. Virgilio, NMSS G. Janosko, NMSS L. Reyes, RII R. Trojanowski, RII D. Collins, RII J. Henson, RII

* See previous concurrence

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