

Specialty Chemicals
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April 1, 2004

UPS: (404 562 4731)

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Regional Administrator, Region II
Sam Nunn Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street SW, Suite 23T85
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8931

Re: Maintenance Checkout of Green Salt Train B in the Uranium Hexafluoride Process at Honeywell
Metropolis Plant
License No. SUB-526
Docket No. 040-03392

Dear Sirs:

We request NRC Region II concurrence to begin a maintenance check of Green Salt Train B on Saturday, April 3, 2004. The maintenance check would involve fluidization and heating of Green Salt Train B Reductor, Train B Top Hydrofluorinator, and Train B Bottom Hydrofluorinator. No additional solid feeds, hydrogen fluoride or ammonia will be introduced into Green Salt Train B.

Steps of the maintenance check includes the following:

- Inert gas will be injected into the reactors listed above. This inert gas will flow through the uranium ore and uranium tetrafluoride beds in the reactors discharging via normal process path to their respective particulate and gas scrubbing systems. All south pad scrubbing systems and the H₂S incinerator will be operational.
- External reactor heating will be applied via the reactor heating systems to bring to normal start-up/operational temperatures.
- The equipment will be checked for fitness. An in-run (inert gas fluidizing only) leak check will be performed that will include hot bolting of equipment flanges, connections, etc.
- It is expected Green Salt Train B would be maintained at normal startup/operational temperatures pending NRC permission to restart the Green Salt phase.

The maintenance check is considered a low risk maintenance activity since no reaction streams (HF, NH₃) will be introduced into the reactors at this time. Existing controls at the time of shutdown will be used for this evolution.

This evolution will be performed with qualified operators utilizing management oversight.

We will be pleased to answer any questions pertaining to the maintenance check.

Sincerely,



Rory J. O'Kane
Plant Manager

cc: Mr. Douglas Collins, Region II
Sam Nunn Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street SW, Suite 23T85
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(UPS: 404-562-4700)

Mr. Jay L. Henson, Chief
Fuel Facility Inspection Branch 2
Division of Fuel Facility Inspection, Region II
Sam Nunn Federal Center
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US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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