

May 18, 2005

Mr. Steven A. Toelle
Director, Nuclear Regulatory Affairs
United States Enrichment Corporation
2 Democracy Center
6903 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, Maryland 20817-1818

Dear Mr. Toelle,

We have reviewed your request in your letter of April 26, 2005, for relief in the filling of cylinders, with new Hunt valves installed, with depleted uranium hexafluoride (UF_6) for long-term storage. We understand that the subject cylinders are all ones that were in United States Enrichment Corporation (USEC) inventory prior to August 29, 2004. This was the date inferred in U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Bulletin 2003-03 (BL-03-03) that indicated the end of a one-year transition period, after which it was expected addressees of the Bulletin would no longer be shipping or processing cylinders with affected Hunt valves. We also understand that the cylinders have not been used previously, or have been used only once to transport feed material from your Portsmouth facility to your Paducah facility.

We understand your request for NRC approval to be as follows:

- 1) To allow USEC to fill nearly-new cylinders with Hunt valves installed, that were previously used at Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PORTS), when emptied of feed material, with depleted UF_6 for long-term storage; and
- 2) To continue filling new, clean cylinders with Hunt valves installed, that are currently in USEC's inventory, with depleted UF_6 for long-term storage.

We approve your request to use the cylinders with Hunt valves installed, as described above, for one-time filling with depleted UF_6 and subsequent long-term storage. We understand that this activity will continue to be supported with all the testing and other safety-related procedures described in the Safety Basis section of your letter and otherwise required by your license and NRC regulations, until all the subject cylinders have been filled and stored.

S. A. Toelle

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Specifically, we understand that each such cylinder with an installed Hunt valve will be tested before and after filling with depleted UF_6 , to confirm leak integrity.

This approval is effective immediately.

/RA/

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

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/RA/

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