



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

MAR 18 1992

Docket No: 70-36

MEMORANDUM FOR: Michael Tokar, Section Leader  
Uranium Fuel Section  
Fuel Cycle Safety Branch  
Division of Industrial and  
Medical Nuclear Safety

FROM: Sean Soong  
Uranium Fuel Section  
Fuel Cycle Safety Branch  
Division of Industrial and  
Medical Nuclear Safety

Charles Robinson  
Uranium Fuel Section  
Fuel Cycle Safety Branch  
Division of Industrial and  
Medical Nuclear Safety

SUBJECT: TRIP REPORT - COMBUSTION ENGINEERING (CE), HEMATITE, MISSOURI

On March 2-6, 1992, NRC representatives visited the CE Hematite facility to review its operations and activities and to discuss the license renewal application. A list of attendees is enclosed.

On March 2 and 3, C. Robinson and S. Soong toured the facility with CE representatives who provided detailed explanations of the operations and safety controls for the process equipment. The tour included the UF<sub>6</sub> to UO<sub>2</sub> conversion; UO<sub>2</sub> storage, UO<sub>2</sub> blending, pressing, sintering, and grinding operations; and the pellet warehouse, scrap recovery, waste incineration, waste packaging, laundry, and ventilation system. S. Soong also visited the Health Physics Office where Mr. E. Criddle provided a detailed explanation of the radiological protection program that is being conducted.

On March 4 through 6, discussions were held to review the staff's comments on the renewal application. Main topics included the air sampling program and the methods for obtaining representative, airborne concentrations of radioactivity; the four Branch Technical Positions on management controls/quality assurance, requirements for operation, chemical safety, and fire protection; outside contamination controls; and criticality safety.

The main topics involving criticality safety included process safety analyses and management control programs addressing configuration control, operating procedures, training, audits, incident investigations, engineered controls, and code validation. Discussions provided a common understanding of the specifics in the forthcoming request for additional information and possible license conditions that might be imposed if the current renewal application was not revised. Plant walkdowns and review of process and instrument diagrams

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Michael Tokar

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provided essential information for understanding the process and for complementing the process descriptions within the renewal application.

CE representatives were advised that written comments would be transmitted and that CE's responses would be expected within 45 days of the date of the NRC transmittal date.

CE representatives expressed that although they have an understanding as to how the responses will be developed, additional time will be required for them to address NRC comments. CE agreed to submit its response within 60 days of the date of the NRC letter.

~~Original Signed By:~~

Sean Soong  
Uranium Fuel Section  
Fuel Cycle Safety Branch  
Division of Industrial and  
Medical Nuclear Safety

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Charles Robinson  
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Fuel Cycle Safety Branch  
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OFC:IMUF: <i>SS</i>	IMUF: <i>CR</i>	IMUF:
NAME:SSoong:mh:	CRobinson:	VLTharpe:
DATE:3/1/92:	3/18/92:	3/1/92:

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Attendee List

Combustion Engineering, Inc.

J. A. Rode, Plant Manager  
H. E. Eskridge, Manager, Nuclear Licensing, Safety and Accountability  
T. L. Cameron, Nuclear Materials Licensing Engineering  
R. J. Klotz, Nuclear Criticality Specialist  
E. W. Criddle, Health Physics Supervisor  
L. Deul, Manufacturing Engineer

Nuclear Regulatory Commission

C. R. Robinson, NMSS  
G. M. France, Region III  
S. Soong, NMSS