June 17, 1998

Mr. Robert W. Sharkey, Jirector Regulatory Affairs Combustion Engineering, Inc. 3300 State Road P Hematite, MO 63047

SUBJECT: HYDROGEOLOGIC INVESTIGATION (TAC NO. L31022)

Dear Mr. Sharkey:

This is in reference to your submittal dated April 28, 1998, of the "Hydrogeologic Investigation and Groundwater/Surface Water Monitoring Work Plan for the Combustion Engineering, Hematite Missouri Site, Revision 1." The NRC staff has completed its review of this Plan. The staff has determined that the results of the field work specified in the Plan should provide a reasonable hydrogeological characterization of the site, which will enable you to determine appropriate decommissioning actions for the 10 CFR 20.304 burial area at your facility.

Therefore, we expect you to initiate the hydrogeologic investigation promptly. As indicated in your letter of October 21, 1997, we expect to receive the hydrogeological report on the results of this investigation by November 1999. If you have any questions, please contact Sean Soong, the NRC Project Manager for your facility, at (301) 415-8155.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Michael F. Weber, Chief Licensing Branch Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards, NMSS

Docket 70-36 License SNM-33

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## UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

washington, d.c. 20555-0001 June 17, 1998

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