

May 2, 2006

Gary N. Wright, Director
Division of Nuclear Safety
Illinois Emergency Management Agency
1035 Outer Park Drive, 5th Floor
Springfield, IL 62704

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REVIEW OF U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY
COMMISSION DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR LICENSE
RENEWAL OF HONEYWELL'S METROPOLIS WORKS FACILITY,
METROPOLIS, ILLINOIS

Dear Mr. Wright:

By letter dated May 27, 2005, Honeywell International, Inc. (Honeywell) submitted a license renewal application to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to continue operations at their Metropolis Works (MTW) facility in Massac County, near Metropolis, Illinois. At the MTW facility, Honeywell converts natural uranium ore concentrates into uranium hexafluoride (UF₆) for the commercial nuclear power industry. The production of UF₆ is one phase in the fuel cycle resulting in production of fuel elements for nuclear reactors. The renewed license, if approved, will authorize the facility to operate for an additional 10 years. NRC staff has developed the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) in conjunction with the review of this license renewal application. NRC is submitting the draft EA to your office for review and comment. In response to your request, two (2) copies of the draft EA are enclosed.

The 405-hectare (1,000-acre) MTW site is located approximately 1.6 kilometers (1 mile) northwest of the Metropolis city limits, along the northern bank of the Ohio River in Massac County, Illinois. The primary site perimeter is formed by U.S. Highway 45 to the north, the Ohio River to the south, an industrial coal blending plant to the west and privately-owned, developed land to the east. Honeywell also owns approximately 40.5 hectares (100 acres) of land directly across U.S. Highway 45, north-northeast of the plant. The site can be located on the U.S. Geological Survey Joppa Quadrangle. The location of the facility is depicted in Figure 1.1 of the draft EA. Plant operations are conducted in a fenced restricted area covering approximately 22 hectares (54 acres) in the north-central portion of the site. The licensee has no plans to increase facility effluents or emissions, or to expand the facility beyond the existing fenced, restricted area within the 1,000 acre site.

NRC has contacted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in conjunction with our Section 7 consultation under the Endangered Species Act and received concurrence that the proposed activity is not likely to adversely affect any know federally listed threatened and endangered species. We have also contacted the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency in conjunction with our Section 106 consultation under the National Historic Preservation Act. The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency staff is currently reviewing the proposed activity for concurrence with our finding that the proposed activity not impact any known historic architectural or archaeological resources listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

G. Wright

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In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from NRC web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/dadams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Neil Haggerty of my staff by telephone at (301) 415-5196, or by e-mail at nxh3@nrc.gov. Written response can be provided to: B. Jennifer Davis, c/o Document Control Desk, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Mailstop T-7J08, Washington DC, 20555-0001. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

/RA/

B. Jennifer Davis, Chief
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosure:

Draft Environmental Assessment Related to the
Renewal of NRC License No. SUB-526 for the
Honeywell Specialty Materials' Metropolis Works
(MTW) Facility (2 copies)

Docket No.: 40-3392

License No.: SUB-526

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Docket No.: 40-3392
License No.: SUB-526

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