



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20555 - 0001

May 25, 2006

Mr. Russell B. Starkey
Vice President, Operations
United States Enrichment Corporation
Two Democracy Center
6903 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, MD 20817

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY UNITED STATES ENRICHMENT
CORPORATION TO ENSURE EMPLOYEES ARE WILLING TO RAISE SAFETY
CONCERNS

Dear Mr. Starkey:

By letter dated May 8, 2006, United States Enrichment Corporation (USEC) responded to U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) request to provide information on the actions that it has taken or planned to take to prevent public knowledge of a U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), Office of Administrative Law Judges (ALJ), decision (Case No. 2004-ERA-0001) from having a negative effect on the willingness of Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant (Paducah) employees to raise safety concerns. The actions taken include: employee training on expectations for maintaining a safety conscious work environment (SCWE); management's performance of an annual review of SCWE case studies since 2003; and biannual briefing of the Paducah General Manager on SCWE trends. Following the ALJ's January 27, 2006, decision, USEC initiated a number of actions specific to the organization where the subject employee previously worked including having the manager meet with the group to discuss the ALJ decision. USEC also reviewed key SCWE indicators and verified that the employees within the individual's former work group were raising issues at approximately the same rate following the decision made by the ALJ.

Based on our review of your May 8, 2006, letter, the NRC staff finds that USEC was responsive to the NRC request regarding the SCWE at Paducah. As previously stated in our letter dated April 6, 2006, the NRC will continue to monitor the DOL proceedings to determine whether or not revisiting the matter of the employee's suspension and later termination is warranted.

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

R. Starkey

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For questions concerning this letter, please contact Mr. Russell Arrighi, NRC, Office of Enforcement at 301-415-0205 or via e-mail at rja1@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Michael R. Johnson, Director
Office of Enforcement

Docket No.: 070-07001

Certificate No.: GDP-1

cc: S.R. Cowne, Paducah Regulatory Affairs Manager
S.A. Toelle, Director, Nuclear Regulatory Affairs, USEC
R.M. DeVault, Regulatory Oversight Manager, DOE
G.A. Bazzell, Paducah Facility Representative, DOE
Janice H. Jasper, State Liaison Officer

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bcc: U.S. Department of Labor/OSHA
201 Varick Street
New York, NY 10014

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