June 7, 2007

Mr. Mark Smith, Director
Nuclear Regulatory Affairs
U. S. Enrichment Corporation
2 Democracy Center
6903 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, MD 20817

SUBJECT: TRANSMITTAL OF 2007 ANNUAL UPDATE TO CERTIFICATION APPLICATION (REVISION 85) FOR THE PORTSMOUTH GASEOUS DIFFUSION PLANT (PORTS)

Dear Mr. Smith:

By letter dated April 13, 2007, you submitted your annual update to the Certification Application for Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PORTS). We have reviewed the changes, and have the following question:

> We note that Safety Analysis Report (SAR) Sections 3.1.1.1.5.1 (page 3.1-7) and others, were revised to "provide consistency with Technical Safety Requirements (TSR)". The TSRs, in this case, provide requirements for a specific cell buffer gas pressure when that gas is used as a Nuclear Criticality Safety (NCS) control for shutdown cells. In the update, U. S. Enrichment Corporation (USEC) modified the wording of the requirement by replacing the term "slightly above atmospheric pressure" with the value 14.0 pound per square inch absolute (psia). However, in your summary of the changes, that we received via e-mail, you state that atmospheric pressure at PORTS is 14.45 psia.
>
> Staff notes that 14.0 psia is not "slightly above atmospheric" for PORTS; therefore, the change does not appear to be conservative. 10 CFR 76.68 allows for you to make changes as long as they do not reduce safety margins. Please provide an explanation for this apparent non-conservative change.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, I may be reached at 301-415-6334.

Sincerely,

/RA by B. Smith for/

Michael Raddatz, Sr. Project Manager
Enrichment and Conversion Branch
Fuel Facility Licensing Directorate
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
and Safeguards
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 70-7002

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