

November 4, 1996

Edward H. MacDonald
Regional Engineer
Bureau of Waste Prevention
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Environmental Protection
10 Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801

SUBJECT: REVISIONS TO DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED LICENSE RENEWAL OF NUCLEAR METALS, INC., CONCORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Dear Mr. MacDonald:

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and as codified in NRC Regulations 10 CFR Part 51, for the Nuclear Metals Inc., site in Concord, Massachusetts. As indicated in my letter to you dated July 29, 1996, the NRC was modifying the accident screening scenario to include facility specific information. Enclosed are the revised pages (41-47 and 53) to the subject draft report that relate to non-radiological hazardous materials that could be involved in a severe fire at NMI. We are referring the results of this assessment to you because of the apparent need for emergency planning for potential sulfuric acid releases.

In addition, this letter also expresses our appreciation for your agency's prompt actions towards resolution of the sulfur dioxide issue that was forwarded to you by my July 29, 1996 letter. During a telephone discussion between Edward Braczyk and Marie Miller, of our respective staffs on October 28, 1996, Mr. Braczyk indicated that the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection field and headquarters staff are working with NMI representatives to reduce the projected sulfur dioxide emissions.

We believe that assessing the acceptability of these actions falls solely within your jurisdiction. We would appreciate that you confirm in writing by November 30, 1996, your agreement to (1) seek resolution with NMI of the sulfur dioxide emissions from routine operations; and (2) address any emergency preparedness, if required, for potential sulfuric acid releases from severe fire conditions with NMI. Please note that we are not requesting that the actions for resolution of these matters be completed by that time, rather, we are seeking a written statement that you accept responsibility for disposition of these two matters. Also, if you have any comments on the Draft EA, please send them to NRC RI by November 30, 1996. These dates will support our schedule for publication of a Final EA.

Because this is a draft document, we request that it not be distributed to the public. It does not represent a final NRC agency position.

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Please address any questions and correspondence to Marie Miller, Project Manager for NMI, (610) 337-5205, at U.S. NRC Region I, 475 Allendale Avenue, King of Prussia, PA 19406. I am also available at (610) 337-5200, if you have any concerns.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

Ronald R. Bellamy, Ph.D., Chief
Decommissioning and Lab Branch
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

License No. SMB-179
Docket No. 040-00672

Enclosure: Draft EA for NMI

cc w/encl:
C. Weidner, MADEP

R. Hallisey, Director
Radiation Control Program
Department of Public Health
305 South Street, 7th Avenue
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

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