



Ohio Sierra Club
131 N. High St, Suite 605
Columbus, OH 43215-3026
614-461-0734

September 12, 2011

Mr. Brian W. Smith, Chief
Uranium Enrichment Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL AND EMAIL

Dear Mr. Smith:

Thank you for copying me on your letter of July 15, 2011, to Mr. Peter J. Miner, Director, Regulatory Affairs and Quality Assurance, USEC, Inc., pertaining to submittal of USEC, Inc. request for renewal of Materials License (SNM-7003) for the American Centrifuge Lead Cascade Facility (TAC No. L33142).

An incident occurred at the above referenced facility on June 11, 2011, which I hope you can address. Referring to an article, which appeared in the Chillicothe Gazette on or about July 8, 2011, the facility apparently suffered a circuit breaker failure. Said failure led to the damage of a number of the centrifuge machines as well as failure of both the battery room hydrogen monitoring system and the forced air ventilation system.

The article quotes Mr. Osiris Siurano-Perez as saying neither system was identified as Items Relied On For Safety (IROFS), yet my understanding is the hydrogen monitoring system is indeed identified as an IROFS. Why, then, was USEC so slow in notifying the NRC? Can you explain? Is the forced air ventilation system also an IROFS?

Additionally, the article goes on to say that none of the damaged centrifuge machines contained uranium at the time of the power failure yet in its second quarter report, USEC, Inc., states: "...most of the machines were operating on uranium gas at the time."

Was there or was there not uranium involved? If uranium was involved, was any radioactive material released or anything contaminated? If nothing was released or contaminated, did the NRC or did USEC make that determination? Additionally, what, if anything, has the NRC required USEC to do to prevent a reoccurrence in the future? Finally, please copy me on any and all reports generated by USEC and/or the NRC pertaining to this egregious accident and add me to the contact list for all future USEC matters.

Thank you for your assistance on this matter.

Respectfully,

Patricia A. Marida

Lee Blackburn
Ohio Sierra Club Nuclear Issues Committee
leeblackburn@live.com

Patricia A. Marida, chair
Ohio Sierra Club Nuclear Issues Committee
marida@wideopenwest.com

J. Calle - NRC RII
J. Downs - NRC HQ
D. Hartland - NRC RII
O. Siurano - NRC HQ
R. DeVault - DOE ORO
M. Bear - OEMA HQ