



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
REGION II
245 PEACHTREE CENTER AVENUE NE, SUITE 1200
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-1257

August 15, 2012

Mr. Larry Smith
Plant Manager
Honeywell Metropolis Works
P.O. Box 430
Metropolis, IL 62960

**SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION OF LIMITED OPERATION FOR UF₆ RECOVERY
(CONFIRMATORY ACTION LETTER NO. 2-2012-002)**

Dear Mr. Smith:

This letter is in response to your request for the NRC to authorize limited operations to recover UF₆ at your Honeywell Metropolis Works facility. As stated in your August 7, 2012, letter, this movement of UF₆ will provide for more secure storage of the material and enhance worker safety during the conduct of repairs to the facility. We have reviewed your request and find that your plans for recovering UF₆ provide reasonable assurance of adequate protection of public health and safety.

The NRC evaluated your requests for limited operations dated July 20 and August 7, 2012, and the additional information you submitted after a subsequent teleconference with us on August 9, 2012. The additional information included an analysis of potential UF₆ releases and consequences resulting from a credible seismic event during the proposed period of limited operations. Honeywell concluded that the existing Emergency Response Plan (ERP) is adequate for the proposed limited operations. Honeywell stated that the facility will retain the staffing levels required to maintain an adequate emergency response team onsite, and ensure that procedures and emergency response equipment will be in place during limited operations.

To independently confirm Honeywell's conclusions, the NRC performed an analysis of the potential UF₆ releases should a credible seismic event occur during operations. Based on the results of the independent analysis, the NRC confirmed that your proposal for recovery of solid UF₆ is adequate for operations including 18,000 pounds of liquid UF₆, or less, for each phase of limited operations. The NRC concluded that the current ERP provides adequate protection of public health and safety for an event that may result in a UF₆ release within this limit. The NRC also acknowledges that your risk analysis determined that the likelihood of an event which could cause such a release is highly unlikely.

You are requested to inform the NRC of your schedule for conducting limited operations sufficiently in advance to support an onsite NRC inspection of your activities.

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 Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS), accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Should you have any questions, please contact Anthony T. Gody at 404-997-4700.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Victor M. McCree
Regional Administrator

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

cc: (See page 3)

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Letter to Mr. Larry Smith from Victor M. McCree dated August 15, 2012

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