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NRC Lifts Confirmatory Order at Honeywell Metropolis Works

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has advised officials at Honeywell Metropolis Works that they have satisfied the terms of a 2012 Confirmatory Order issued to the uranium conversion plant requiring modifications to protect the facility against major earthquakes and tornadoes.

During an inspection in May 2012, the NRC determined that process equipment at Honeywell lacked adequate seismic restraints, supports and bracing to ensure integrity during such events. Honeywell agreed to make the modifications, which were outlined in the Confirmatory Order, issued in October 2012.

The NRC confirmed during inspections that the completed modifications complied with agency requirements and authorized the facility to resume operations in July 2013. The NRC reviewed Honeywell's revised Integrated Safety Analysis last month and determined it was adequate, clearing the way for the lifting of the Confirmatory Order this week.

“Honeywell’s corrective actions have satisfied the terms of the Confirmatory Order, which we have closed,” said Victor McCree, the NRC’s Region II administrator. “The company has taken the necessary actions to protect the community and the environment, which was our original goal.”

The Metropolis, Ill., plant converts milled uranium into uranium hexafluoride gas, which is then enriched at other facilities to make fuel for commercial nuclear power reactors.