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

February 20, 2015

EA-15-015

Mr. Jim Pritchett
Plant Manager
Honeywell Metropolis Works
P.O. Box 430
Metropolis, IL 62960

SUBJECT: HONEYWELL METROPOLIS WORKS – NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION INSPECTION REPORT 40-3392/2015-006

Dear Mr. Pritchett:

This letter refers to the apparent violation that was identified during our follow-up of an event involving a uranium hexafluoride leak that occurred in the Feeds Material Building (FMB) on October 26, 2014. The apparent violation involves the failure by licensee emergency responders to declare an Alert in response to the release as required by their Emergency Response Plan which resulted in a hazardous situation that migrated outside of the FMB and stayed within the restricted area or inner fence line. Honeywell subsequently reported its failure to properly classify the event to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on November 5, 2014 [NRC Event Notification 50594]. The details of the follow-up inspection are documented in NRC Inspection Report 40-3392/2014-005. The apparent violation is being considered for escalated enforcement action in accordance with the NRC Enforcement Policy. The current Policy is included on the NRC's Web site at http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/enforcement/enforce-pol.html.

The circumstances surrounding the apparent violation, the significance of the issue, and the need for lasting and effective corrective action were discussed with members of your staff at the inspection exit meeting on January 28, 2015. As a result, it may not be necessary to conduct a pre-decisional enforcement conference in order to enable the NRC to make an enforcement decision.

In addition, since your facility has not been the subject of escalated enforcement actions within the last two years, and based on our understanding of your corrective action, a civil penalty may not be warranted in accordance with Section 2.3.4 of the Enforcement Policy. The final decision will be based on you confirming on the license docket that the corrective actions previously described to the NRC staff have been or are being taken.

Before the NRC makes its enforcement decision, we are providing you an opportunity to (1) respond to the apparent violation addressed in this inspection report within 30 days of the date of this letter or (2) request a Pre-decisional Enforcement Conference (PEC). If a PEC is held, it will be open for public observation and the NRC will issue a press release to announce the time and date of the conference. If you decide to participate in a PEC, please contact James Hickey at 404-997-4628 within 10 days of the date of this letter. A PEC should be held within 30 days of the date of this letter.

If you choose to provide a written response, it should be clearly marked as a “Response to An Apparent Violation in NRC Inspection Report 40-3392/2015-006; EA-15-015” and should include (1) the reason for the apparent violation or, if contested, the basis for disputing the apparent violation; (2) the corrective steps that have been taken and the results achieved; (3) the corrective steps that will be taken ; and (4) the date when full compliance will be achieved. Your response may reference or include previously docketed correspondence, if the correspondence adequately addresses the required response. If an adequate response is not received within the time specified or an extension of time has not been granted by the NRC, the NRC will proceed with its enforcement decision or schedule a PEC.

If you choose to request a PEC, the conference will afford you the opportunity to provide your perspective on these matters and any other information that you believe the NRC should take into consideration before making an enforcement decision. The decision to hold a predecisional enforcement conference does not mean that the NRC has determined that a violation has occurred or that enforcement action will be taken. This conference would be conducted to obtain information to assist the NRC in making an enforcement decision. The topics discussed during the conference may include information to determine whether a violation occurred, information to determine the significance of a violation, information related to the identification of a violation, and information related to any corrective actions taken or planned. In presenting your corrective action, you should be aware that the promptness and comprehensiveness of your actions will be considered in assessing any civil penalty for the apparent violations. The guidance in the enclosed NRC Information Notice 96-28, "Suggested Guidance Relating to Development and Implementation of Corrective Action," may be helpful.

Because the NRC has not made a final determination, no Notice of Violation is being issued for the inspection issues at this time. In addition, please be advised that the number and characterization of the apparent violation described above may change as a result of further NRC review. You will be advised by separate correspondence of the results of our deliberations.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC’s “Rules of Practice and Procedure,” a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the NRC document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC website at http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html.

Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact me at (404) 997-4700.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Mark S. Lesser, Director
Division of Fuel Facility Inspection

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

Enclosure: NRC Information Notice 96-28

cc: (See page 4)

Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact me at (404) 997-4700.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Mark S. Lesser, Director
Division of Fuel Facility Inspection

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

Enclosure: NRC Information Notice 96-28
cc: (See page 4)

DISTRIBUTION:
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ADAMS: ☒ Yes ACCESSION NUMBER: ML15051A126 ☒ SUNSI REVIEW COMPLETE ☒ FORM 665 ATTACHED

OFFICE	RII:DFFI	RII:DFFI	RII:EICS				
SIGNATURE	/RA/	/RA/	/RA/				
NAME	DHartland	JHickey	SSparks				
DATE	2/19/2015	2/ /2015	2/19/2015	2/ /2015	2/ /2015	2/ /2015	2/ /2015
E-MAIL COPY?	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO

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