



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

FEB 28 1980 .

DOCKET NO.: 70-820
LICENSEE: United Nuclear Corporation
FACILITY: Fuel Recovery Plant
Wood River Junction, Rhode Island
SUBJECT: REVIEW OF LICENSE AMENDMENT APPLICATION DATED MAY 18, 1979,
AND SUPPLEMENT DATED FEBRUARY 5, 1980, CONCERNING
DECOMMISSIONING PLAN, 07000820A03S

Introduction

By letter dated May 18, 1979, UNC Recovery Systems Division of United Nuclear submitted a plan (dated May 16, 1979) for the future decontamination of the places of use and site authorized by Special Nuclear Material License No. SNM-777 so that they can be released for unrestricted use. At the request of NRC, United Nuclear submitted a letter dated February 5, 1980, which commits the parent company, UNC Resources, Inc., to the financial responsibility for the costs of decontamination and decommissioning.

Decontamination Plan and Costs

The decontamination plan concerns the areas within all of the buildings on the Wood River Junction site in which unencapsulated radioactive materials have been handled pursuant to License No. SNM-777. The plan does not address the lagoon system on the site because Condition 25 of Amendment No. 6 to SNM-777 requires that the lagoons be decontaminated to release limits by July 1, 1982. The activities leading to decontamination of the lagoon system are now in progress and should be completed before the anticipated decommissioning of the recovery facility. Equipment and facilities which cannot be decontaminated to the release criteria in effect at the time of decommissioning will have to be packaged, transported and disposed of in accordance with applicable requirements for radioactive materials.

The estimated cost for facility and equipment decontamination and burial is approximately \$1,000,000. The staff concluded that the plan and the estimated cost are reasonable and adequate.

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Financial Plan

The staff has evaluated the United Nuclear Corporation financial commitment and finds that, although it does not contain a financial surety arrangement that would guarantee decommissioning funds, it offers the assurance of an officer of the parent corporation (UNC Resources, Inc.) that the parent corporation will provide the necessary funds for decommissioning. The staff finds that the UNC Resources commitment is only a small fraction of the worth of the corporation.

Conclusion

United Nuclear Corporation's plan for the future decontamination of the places of use and site authorized by the license, so that they may be released for unrestricted use, and the financial commitment, provide satisfactory assurance that the health and safety of the operating personnel will be protected, and the quality of the environment maintained.

It is recommended that an amendment to Special Nuclear Material License SNM-777 be issued to incorporate the decommissioning plan and financial commitment.

Robert L. Stevenson

Robert L. Stevenson
Uranium Process Licensing Section
Uranium Fuel Licensing Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle and Material
Safety

Approved by: *W. T. Crow*
W. T. Crow, Section Leader