



Department of Energy

Oak Ridge Operations
P.O. Box 2001
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831-8733

April 18, 1989.

Mr. Lee Rouse, Chief
Fuel Cycle Safety Branch
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop 6H3
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Rouse:

REFUSAL TO USE SUPERIOR UF₆ CYLINDER VALVES FROM HEAT LOTS 17 THROUGH 22

Energy Systems has completed the investigation of the valve body cracking found in heat lots 17 through 22 of the Superior UF₆ cylinder valves. The conclusion reached is that there is no way to repair these valve bodies. While there has been no apparent problem with the valve packing nuts, they could become a future concern because they are made from the same heat lots. The other parts of the valves are not deficient and can be salvaged for use in valve bodies forged from other heat lots.

The Department of Energy will continue to refuse to use or accept any of the valves marked from heat lots 17 through 22.

Sincerely,

Ronald O. Hultgren, Director
Enriching Operations Division

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