

DLA

Doc No. 70-36

# COMBUSTION ENGINEERING

February 7, 1990

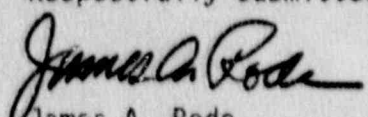
Bruce S. Mallet, Ph.D., Chief  
Nuclear Materials Safety Branch  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region III  
799 Roosevelt Road  
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

Dear Dr. Mallett:

As requested by your letter dated December 27, 1989, enclosed is a report on the status of open items listed in Inspection Report #70-0036/89004 (DRSS).

Please advise if further information is required.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Rode  
Plant Manager

JAR/ear/17012

Enclosure

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ABB-Combustion Engineering, Inc.  
Hematite Plant  
Licence #SNM-33

Status of Open Items - Inspection Report #70-0036/89004 (DRSS)

Open Item #70-36/89004-01 - Posting of storage bins in incinerator area.

The criticality limit sign for the storage bins has been changed to limit storage to contaminated items with no significant uranium. This will allow more than one item of this type to be stored in each bin.

Items listed in Section II of the Inspection Report:

02 - Review safety of operation of the older dewaxing and sintering furnaces.

We plan to install ultra-violet flame sensors on dewaxer #1 and furnace #5 in the old pellet plant (Building 255). When the equipment in Building 254 is fully operational, only these units will remain in routine operation.

03 - Portable fire extinguishers should be inspected monthly.

One monthly inspection of fire extinguishers was missed after reassignment of duties within the Nuclear and Industrial Safety group. The Health Physics Supervisor will routinely check to ensure that the fire extinguisher inspection is performed in a timely manner.

04 - Provide fire water system to upgrade fire suppression system.

A proposal for 200,000 gallons water storage facility was recently requested from a local design engineering company. Our commitment is to have additional anhydrous ammonia storage capacity. Use of water to fight fires will continue to be limited due to criticality safety considerations.

05 - Training for fire brigade members should be oriented towards hands-on fire fighting. The effectiveness of the instruction should be tested.

Hands-on training is conducted in the use of portable fire extinguishers and self-contained breathing apparatus, alternated with classroom sessions, training films and drills. We will work with local fire department personnel to ensure the effectiveness of this training, including testing where appropriate.

06 - A dike to contain potential nitric acid leakage in the South Vault is recommended.

A concrete dike will be constructed to prevent a nitric acid spill from contacting organic materials. This will be completed by April, 1990.

- 07 - Unneeded combustible objects should be promptly removed from the manufacturing areas.

We will continue efforts to minimize combustible loading of the manufacturing areas. Empty boxes and crates will be promptly removed. Also, aluminum pallets will be obtained to replace wooded pallets for necessary storage in these areas.

- 08 - Review micronizer equipment and operation for potential loss of containment of SNM material.

As stated in the Inspection Report, operation of the micronizer has not caused significant airborne contamination. Blow-back of the system, however, does cause contamination on the inside of the hood. We have designed an experimental funnel shroud for better containment of blow-back in the new facility and will evaluate retrofitting this into the older areas of the plant. We will continue to monitor airborne concentrations with both fixed and lapel air samplers.