

SEP 10 1990

NOTE TO: W. Scott Pennington, IMUF
FROM: Chuck Robinson, IMUF
SUBJECT: HYDROGEN FLUORIDE (HF) DETECTION

As you are aware, the licensees, Allied and Sequoyah, utilize visual observation and smoke detectors to detect uranium hexafluoride (UF₆) releases. This fact may raise several licensing concerns at the time of license renewal. First, the smoke detectors have proved inefficient. On several occasions, these detectors have failed to register in the control room during a release although they were functional when tested with cigarette smoke after the release. Secondly, although visual detection may provide immediate identification of a UF₆ release, it does not necessarily provide immediate initiation of an alarm. The failure or inability of operator actions to initiate an alarm can occur and has occurred in the past. It is appropriate for licensees to utilize state-of-the-art equipment. Therefore, licensees should commit to employ HF detectors or an equivalent means for timely detection of UF₆ releases.

Original Signed By:

Chuck Robinson, IMUF

cc: CHaughney

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