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(NRC PUBLIC DOCUMENT ROOM)

Rockwell  
International

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October 12, 1978

In reply refer to 78ESG-9206

U.S. NUCLEAR REG.  
COMMISSION  
NMS&F SECTION

Mr. Douglas Weiss  
License Fee Management Branch  
Office of Administration  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Reference: Special Nuclear Material License SNM-21,  
Docket No. 70-25, CONTROL NUMBER 10652

Dear Mr. Weiss:

Subject: Pyrochemical Dry Processing Methods Program

This will confirm our recent telephone conversation concerning the Energy Systems Group application for amendment to Special Nuclear Material License SNM-21 for the Pyrochemical Dry Processing Methods Program, which has been assigned CONTROL NUMBER 10652.

As I indicated in that phone conversation, the Pyrochemical Dry Processing Methods Program had been initiated under contract with the Department of Energy. The first phases of the program plans were initiated during GFY 1978 with the expectation of initiating studies under the requested license amendment during GFY 1979. Unfortunately, we have recently been advised that the program is being redirected effective immediately. Hence, it now appears that it may be unnecessary for the amendment to our License SNM-21 to be issued, although the decision to terminate the experimental phase of the program, which would require the license amendment, is not yet final.

With this current hiatus in the program, it seems prudent to hold in abeyance any efforts the licensing staff have initiated with the objective of issuing the amendment. Therefore, please consider this a formal request to discontinue any efforts to develop a license amendment for a period of 60 days or until we receive more definitive direction from the Department of Energy. As soon as we receive appropriate direction from DOE, we either shall advise you to renew your efforts to develop the license amendment or withdraw the application, whichever is appropriate.

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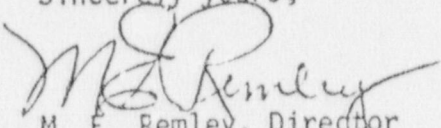
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If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at (213) 341-1000, Extension 2238.

Sincerely yours,

  
M. E. Remley, Director  
Health, Safety & Radiation  
Services  
Energy Systems Group

bjb:4/1-2

cc: James G. Partlow  
Materials Control Licensing Branch