



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III  
801 WARRENVILLE ROAD  
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532-4351

January 5, 1999

Mr. J. William Lessig  
Plant Manager  
AlliedSignal, Inc.  
Post Office Box 430  
Metropolis, IL 62690

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 040-03392/98006(DNMS) AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Lessig:

On December 4, 1998, the NRC concluded an announced, routine inspection at your Metropolis Works, Illinois, facility. The inspection included an evaluation of an emergency preparedness exercise, and of other activities authorized by the licensee, to determine if the activities were conducted safely and in accordance with NRC requirements. At the conclusion of the inspection, the findings were discussed with members of your staff identified in the enclosed report.

The objective of the emergency preparedness exercise effort was to determine whether the AlliedSignal Metropolis Works Radiological Contingency Plan (RCP) was adequate and plant staff were capable of implementing the RCP in accordance with NRC requirements. Based on the results of the emergency preparedness exercise evaluation, no violations of NRC requirements were identified.

Although your staff's overall performance during the emergency preparedness exercise was adequate and demonstrated that your RCP implementation activities met regulatory requirements, several command and control weaknesses were identified during the emergency preparedness exercise. Specifically, the inspectors noted weaknesses in the emergency response staff's coordination of efforts to control and mitigate the simulated uranium hexafluoride release while effecting search and rescue activities. You are requested to respond to the performance weaknesses identified in the enclosed report within 30 days. Your response should include any corrective actions taken or planned to address these weaknesses.

Other areas examined during the inspection are identified in the report. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of a selective examination of procedures and representative records, interviews with plant staff, and observations of activities in progress. Based on the results of the inspection, the NRC has determined that one violation of NRC requirements occurred. The violation is cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice) and the circumstances surrounding the violation are described in detail in the enclosed report. The violation indicated a lack of rigor in your staff's implementation of health physics procedures in the operational area of ore preparation.

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You are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. The NRC will use your response, in part, to determine whether further enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

We will gladly discuss any questions you have concerning this inspection.

Sincerely,

/s/ K. G. O'Brien

Kenneth G. O'Brien, Acting Chief  
Fuel Cycle Branch

Docket No. 040-03392  
License No. SUB-526

Enclosures: 1. Notice of Violation  
2. Inspection Report 040-03392/98006(DNMS)

cc w/encs: T. Ortoger, Illinois Department of  
Nuclear Safety

DOCUMENT NAME: G:\SEC\ALL98006.DNM

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