



Docket No. 070-03089

January 8, 1999
L-98-012

Mr. Robert C. Pierson, Chief
Special Projects Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards
Office of Nuclear Material Safety & Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Attention: Document Control Desk

Subject: **AVLIS Licensing – License Application Schedule Update**

Reference: USEC (R. L. Woolley) letter to NRC (R. C. Pierson), L-98-010, dated October 6, 1998, "Atomic Vapor Laser Isotope Separation (AVLIS) Schedule"

Dear Mr. Pierson:

The reevaluation of the AVLIS licensing schedule mentioned in my letter of October 6, 1998, has been completed. The revised schedule, including pre-application submittals, is in the attachment to this letter. Consistent with this schedule the completed AVLIS license application will be submitted no earlier than March 2000. However, this schedule is dependent on certain key assumptions, including success in our demonstration efforts and resource availability. Should these assumptions prove incorrect, our schedule will have to be adjusted accordingly. As always, we will keep you apprised of any changes.

We want to continue the process we began in March 1997, when we submitted the quality assurance program description for early review. Thus, we intend to submit for early review those sections of the AVLIS license application that are independent of site selection. Our next early submittal – the section on Integrated Safety Analysis Methods – is expected to be ready in May 1999. The schedule for the remaining early submittals depends upon the NRC's AVLIS licensing requirements being finalized by May 1999.

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Our development of early submittals, and of the application itself, would be aided by NRC's issuing the draft AVLIS Standard Review Plan as soon as practical. We understand from your staff that the draft AVLIS SRP will be issued for comment in January 1999. We look forward to seeing it.

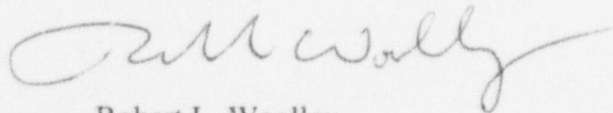
We also foresee a need to engage the NRC staff on a number of subjects to clarify regulatory requirements and expectations. In the next several months, we anticipate significant discussions with the staff on the environmental report, criticality safety, radiation safety, and security matters. We will work with Mr. Jack Davis of your staff, to arrange these discussions and keep you informed as the need for additional discussions arises.

In the past two years USEC has provided a number of briefings and tours to introduce NRC personnel to AVLIS technology and the AVLIS Demonstration Facility in Livermore, California. The NRC participants and we have found these introductory exchanges valuable. With recent turnover in personnel assigned to the AVLIS review team and in management of the NRC Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, we see a need to provide additional introductory briefings and/or tours. Also, Commissioner Diaz has said he wishes to tour the facility during a forthcoming trip to the West Coast. We will work with Mr. Davis to make appropriate arrangements for this briefing and tour.

We appreciate the efforts you have made to support our application schedule. We look forward to working closely with you and your staff to take advantage of the additional time now available before submittal of the AVLIS license application in March 2000. Thank you.

Should you require further information regarding these matters, please contact me at (301) 564-3413.

Sincerely,



Robert L. Woolley
Manager, Nuclear Regulatory Policy and Licensing

Attachment: Schedule of Pre-Application Submittals
cc w/Attachment: Mr. Jack Davis, NRC

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ATTACHMENT

AVLIS LICENSE APPLICATION SUBMITTALS

LICENSE APPLICATION SECTION	DATE	STATUS
Quality Assurance Program Description	3/97	Accepted By NRC
Criticality Safety Validation Report	5/98	NRC Review
Classified Matter Protection Plan (Generic Site)	9/98	NRC Review
Integrated Safety Analysis Methods	5/99	On Schedule
Organization and Administration	8/99	On Schedule
Classified Matter Protection Plan	10/99	On Schedule
Fundamental Nuclear Material Control Plan	11/99	On Schedule
Physical Security Plan	12/99	On Schedule
AVLIS License Application	3/00	On Schedule
AVLIS Environmental Report	3/00	On Schedule