

70-1257 N 11/17/97

SIEMENS

November 14, 1997

JBE:97:166

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Mr. M.F. Weber, Chief
Licensing Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards, NMSS
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr. Weber:

Subject: SPF Amendment Request (TAC No. L30929)

Ref: Letter, M. F. Weber to L. J. Maas, "Adequacy of Siemens Power Corporation Licensing Submittals," dated November 4, 1997

On December 20, 1995 Siemens Power Corporation (SPC) requested NRC's authorization to begin construction of a facility to enclose the Lagoon Uranium Recovery (LUR) process to correct deficiencies identified by SPC and NRC in March 1992 (NRC inspection 70-1257/92-01). The facility was to be constructed to enclose the LUR process in order to provide HEPA filtered, isokinetically sampled exhaust. SPC stated, and NRC concurred in a letter dated January 25, 1996, that the LUR process is authorized under SPC's license and therefore no amendment was required for this construction and subsequent operation.

SPC has completed the building that encloses the LUR and SPF processes. This building has HEPA filtered and isokinetically sampled exhaust, thus correcting the deficiencies at LUR identified in the 1992 inspection. The LUR process itself remains as licensed. SPC, therefore, plans to resume operations of the LUR in time to meet the January 2, 1998 restart schedule imposed on it by the consent decree on surface impoundment closures entered into by SPC and the Washington State Department of Ecology.

On July 30, 1996 SPC told the NRC of additional construction in support of its lagoon inventory reduction program by describing an addition to the LUR building to house the Solids Processing Facility (SPF) equipment and requested a license amendment for the SPF process. The SPF startup date in the consent decree described above is July 7, 1998; however SPC's lagoon inventory reduction program schedule requires the SPF to begin operations by March 1, 1998. In the July 30, 1996 letter described above and in a January 28, 1997 reply to the NRC's December 22, 1996 RAI, SPC provided what it perceived to be adequate process and facility description information as well as the basis for criticality safety. SPC recognizes, as a result of receiving the referenced letter, that it may not have provided sufficient information to allow the

Siemens Power Corporation

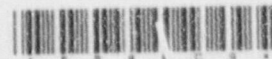
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NRC staff to complete its review. SPC therefore, expects to work with the NRC staff in the coming weeks to provide any additional information is required by NRC to support its license review process to provide an SPF license amendment by March 1, 1998.

If you require further information, please call me at (509) 375-8663.

Very truly yours,



James B. Edgar
Staff Engineer, Licensing

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Enclosures