



40-6940

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

November 19, 1997

MEMORANDUM TO: Michael F. Weber, Chief
Licensing Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
and Safeguards, NMSS

THRU: Melanie A. Galloway, Chief
Licensing Section 2 *Ma Galloway*
Licensing Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
and Safeguards, NMSS

FROM: Michael A. Lamastra
Licensing Section 2 *MA*
Licensing Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
and Safeguards, NMSS

SUBJECT: TRIP TO CABOT PERFORMANCE MATERIALS BOYERTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA,
SEPTEMBER 30, 1997

On September 30, 1997, I visited the Cabot Performance Materials site (Cabot) in Boyertown, Pennsylvania. The purpose of the visit was to take a site familiarization tour and to perform a follow-up review on the financial viability and status of waste disposal at the Cabot Boyertown site. After a brief orientation session, with Cabot representatives, Mr. Kevin Holsopple and Mr. Anthony Campitelli, I toured the facility. Mr. Holsopple led the tour which included the process buildings, the laboratories, the Ores Filtered Press Cake (OFPC) storage area, and the OFPC transfer preparation area. The licensee has eight storage bins for the OFPC of which seven were nearly filled prior to the transfer operation (approx. 25,000 tons). As of September 30, 1997, two bins of the eight were empty and a third bin was half full. Currently, the licensee is shipping up to 16 containers per day with each container holding approximately 21 tons of OFPC. The licensee projects that all OFPC (including OFPC being produced by current operations) will be transferred by the first quarter of 1998.

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Michael F. Weber

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Cabot has contracted with MHF Logistical Solutions of Butler County, Pennsylvania, to package and transport the OFPC to International Uranium Corporation by train and truck. International Uranium has contracted with White Mesa Uranium Mill in Utah to separate out the source material from the tantalum and niobium. The mill will retain the useful source material and Cabot will receive the tantalum and niobium. Cabot is considering various options to handle future OFPC produced during its continued operation.

The licensee effort to remove OFPC off-site is progressing and is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 1998. Its financial position due to the reduction in potential cost of disposal of the OFPC will improve.

cc: Mr. Kevin L. Holsopple
Radiation Safety Officer
Cabot Corporation
P.O. Box 1608
County Line Road
Boyertown, Pennsylvania 19512-1608

Docket 40-6940
License SMB-920

Distribution FCSS 97-002

Docket 40-7580	PUBLIC	NRC File Center	FCLB R/F
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OFC	FCLB	E	FCLB	E	FCLB	E
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DATE	11/14/97		11/19/97		11/19/97	



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