

April 22, 1998

Mr. J. H. Miller
Vice President - Production
United States Enrichment Corporation
Two Democracy Center
6903 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, MD 20817

SUBJECT: NRC EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS EXERCISE INSPECTION REPORT
70-7001/98008(DRS)

Dear Mr. Miller:

On April 2, 1998, the NRC completed an emergency preparedness exercise evaluation inspection at your Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant. The purpose of the inspection was to determine whether activities authorized by the certificate were conducted safely and in accordance with NRC requirements. At the conclusion of the inspection, the inspectors discussed the findings with members of your staff as identified in the enclosed report.

Areas examined within your emergency preparedness exercise performance are identified in the report. Within those areas, the inspection consisted of a selective examination of procedures and representative records, observation of performance, and interviews with staff. The objectives of the inspection effort were to determine whether the Emergency Plan was adequate and facility personnel were capable of implementing the Emergency Plan in accordance with NRC requirements. Based on the results of this inspection, no violations of NRC requirements were identified.

Overall exercise performance was effective. Accident information was quickly passed to the Plant Control Facility, and Incident Commanders rapidly responded to accident scenes. The scenario events were properly classified, and notifications were made in a timely manner. The emergency response organization was promptly activated. Command and control at the Building C-360 accident scene by an Incident Commander and Fire Captain were effective. Response teams, including medical responders, inplant response teams and firefighting personnel, performed effectively. The U.S. Enrichment Corporation Emergency Operations Center (Bethesda, MD) staff properly responded to simulated events, actively supporting efforts at the accident scenes. The onsite Emergency Operations Center staff performed well, responding to two simultaneous accidents, and communicating with offsite authorities. Plant staff critiques were considered effective.

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.

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We will gladly discuss any questions you have concerning these observations.

Sincerely,

original signed by J. A. Grobe

John A. Grobe, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No. 70-7001

Enclosure: Inspection Report 70-7001/98008(DRS)

cc w/encl: S. A. Polston, Paducah General Manager
L. L. Jackson, Paducah Regulatory Affairs Manager
J. M. Brown, Portsmouth General Manager
S. A. Toelle, Manager, Nuclear Regulatory Assurance
and Policy, USEC
Paducah Resident Inspector Office
Portsmouth Resident Inspector Office
J. C. Hodges, Paducah Site Manager, DOE

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Sincerely,

John A. Grobe, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No. 70-7001

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cc w/encl: S. A. Polston, Paducah General Manager
L. L. Jackson, Paducah Regulatory Affairs Manager
J. Morgan, Portsmouth Acting General Manager
S. A. Toelle, Manager, Nuclear Regulatory Assurance
and Policy, USEC
Paducah Resident Inspector Office
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