Fansteel
Metals
number ten tantalum place muskogee, oklahoma 74401

July 30, 1987

Mr. William L. Fisher
Chief, Nuclear Materials Safety and
Safeguards Branch
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region IV
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 1000
Arlington, Texas 76011

Mr. Fisher:

This correspondence is in response to your letter informing Fansteel of certain violations of the Company's NRC License SMB-911.

Complete written responses to each violation are enclosed.

Sincerely,

T. S. Carlile, Jr.
bsm

T. S. CARLILE, JR.
General Manager
Metals Group Muskogee

TSC/bsm

enc.

cc: K. R. Garrity

IC-87/215

IE07

Violation:

1.a. Monthly monitoring well samples obtained from about the middle of 1985 to the date of the inspection had not consistently been measured with sufficient analytical sensitivity such that gross alpha levels as low as 15 pCi/l could be determined.

b. Isotopic analyses were not performed on samples from wells 9 and 10 which, on several occasions since November 1985 had shown gross alpha concentrations about 15 pCi/l.

Corrective Action:

Because of the lack of required manpower needed for these analysis, Fansteel has hired an independent sampling and analytical service. This service will purge and sample our wells in the first week of each month, weather permitting, and analyze their contents. They will have these samples analyzed for radioactivity by an outside laboratory that routinely does these assays. If the gross alpha and/or Beta radioactivity is greater than the allowable limits, the individual radio isotopes will be analyzed for and reported. This service will provide us with written confirmation of their findings in a timely manner allowing Fansteel to comply with reporting procedures in accordance with Condition 15 found in Amendment 8 of Fansteel's NRC License SMB-911. Full compliance to the above regulations will be complete upon receipt of the first report received by our testing service in August 1987. (No later than August 31, 1987.)

Violation:

2.a. Item 13 of the license application states, in part, that the plant liquid effluent is monitored by continuous sampler and flow controller. Three times a week a composite of the specimen taken daily will be analyzed by the company laboratory for certain chemical components including radioactive material content.

Contrary to the requirement, since July 16, 1984, effluent samples have been analyzed for radioactive material content only one time each week.

Corrective Action:

Again, because of manpower requirements, these samples will be taken and analyzed by the Fansteel laboratory for certain chemicals only. A portion of these samples are being sent to an outside laboratory for analysis of radioactive material content. The first samples to be taken under this program were sent on July 20, 1987. A monthly accounting will be formulated and kept by the Radiation Safety Officer.

Violation:

2.b. Item 11(b) of the license application states, in part, that the air sampler is calibrated with graduated orifices.

Contrary to this requirement, since July 16, 1984, the licensee's air sampler has been calibrated with a monometer.

Corrective Action:

The air samplers named in item 11(b) paragraph 5 of Application for License SMB911 have been reinstated as the proper type of samplers to use at our site. This air sampler can and is being calibrated with graduated orifices. The use of these samplers was discontinued because of the size of the specimen sample filter paper was too large for use with the PC-4 Proportional Counter. An adapter is now available that will allow the use of smaller filters to be used on this high volume air sampler. This allows use to use the EPA approved graduated orifice calibration kit that precipitated the intent of item 11(b) of Fansteel's License SMB-911.

The effective date of compliance is August 31, 1987. The Radiation Safety Officer is to monitor this equipment for compliance.