



Whittaker Corporation
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Lynne M. O. Brickner
Vice President
General Counsel

April 29, 1998

Via Federal Express

Mr. Anthony M. Huffert
Project Manager
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop T-8F37
11545 Rockville Pike
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Re: Response to Notice of Violation (January 23, 1998)--Docket No. 040-07455;
License No. SMA-1018 (former Mercer Alloy facility, Greenville, Pennsylvania,
(the "Site"))

Dear Mr. Huffert:

In response to the letter, dated January 23, 1998, from Ronald R. Bellamy, Chief, Decommissioning and Laboratory Branch, Division of Nuclear Safety, Region I of the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the "Letter"), we are hereby requesting the following amendments to accommodate our activities at the Site:

I. License Condition No. 11(a)--Groundwater Monitoring

In response to Appendix B of the Letter, we are herewith submitting for consideration and approval by the USNRC a proposed Groundwater Monitoring Plan for the Site (the "Plan"). If the Plan is acceptable to the USNRC, Whittaker requests that an amendment be made to the first sentence of Condition 11(a) to permit the installation of new monitoring wells and to recognize that future groundwater monitoring will be conducted in accordance with the Plan and that the first sentence of Condition No. 11(a) be amended as follows:

"Sampling of groundwater from monitoring wells present on site
in accordance with "Groundwater Monitoring Plan" as filed on
April 30, 1998 and analysis for gross alpha and beta activity."

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II. License Condition No. 12--Visual Inspection of Site

Following a telephone conference held on March 5, 1998 among representatives of Whittaker, USNRC Region I and USNRC NMSS, Whittaker has agreed with the suggestion made by Ted Johnson of USNRC NMSS for quarterly visual inspections for erosion at the Site. Thus, Whittaker requests that the first sentence of License Condition No. 12 be amended as follows:

"The licensee shall conduct on a quarterly basis a monitoring program that consists of a visual inspection of the site for erosion."

III. License Condition Nos. 15 and 17--Air Sampling

Because of the increased number of visual inspections (as requested above) for erosion, and the low probability of generating airborne radioactivity when certain activities such as sampling of groundwater monitoring wells and the visual inspections for erosion, Whittaker requests that the last phrase of the first sentence of License Condition Nos. 15 and 17 which now reads "during all entries to restricted areas" be amended as follows:

". . . when activities are being performed which could generate airborne radioactive activity."

IV. License Condition Nos. 20 and 21--Equipment Use and Drilling

To comply with the requirements set forth in Appendix B to the Letter and to perform under the Plan, Whittaker requests an exception to the application of License Condition Nos. 20 and 21 so that we may complete the installation of the groundwater monitoring wells as proposed in the Plan. By this letter, Whittaker seeks your approval of the requested exemption to Condition Nos. 20 and 21. If, however, the USNRC concludes that an amendment to the License is required, Whittaker requests that the USNRC treat this letter as a request for amendment of Condition Nos. 20 and 21 as stated above.

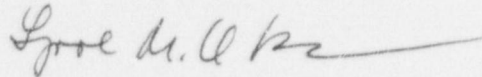
V. License Condition No. 22--Removal of Equipment and Material

In light of the proposed activities contemplated by the Plan and to effect future risk assessment activities, Whittaker requests a modification to License Condition No. 22 to permit Whittaker to remove equipment from prior monitoring wells as part of the well abandonment procedures outlined in the Plan and to permit limited removals of slag material for testing and additional characterization for risk assessment purposes.

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Thank you very much for your prompt consideration. Please contact me if you should have any questions.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Lynne M. O. Brickner", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lynne M. O. Brickner

LMOB:jm
Enclosure

cc: Ms. Leticia Salinas - NES, Inc.
Mr. Steven Schaffer - Region I USNRC