



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

December 1, 2021

James Warden, Director  
Office of Nuclear Energy,  
Safety & Security Affairs, Room 3320 HST  
Bureau of International Security  
& Nonproliferation  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Warden:


Enclosed is an application dated November 29, 2021, received by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission from MP Mine Operations LLC, for the export of 400,000 kilograms of natural uranium and thorium as contaminants in rare earth compounds and mixtures to China. These source materials, for non-nuclear end use, are not expected to be part of any fuel cycle process and will be disposed of as part of rare earth mineral refining and waste processes.

Before taking action on this request, we would appreciate your views, in accordance with established procedures and from the overall perspective of the Executive Branch, as to whether the requested export, for non-nuclear end use of source material, meets the applicable criteria in the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended.

Please note the applicant has requested an expedited review of this application in order to ship, if possible, this material to China within the next 60 days. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the licensing officer, Gary Langlie at [Gary.Langlie@nrc.gov](mailto:Gary.Langlie@nrc.gov) and cc the licensing assistant, Joanne Savoy at [Joanne.Savoy@nrc.gov](mailto:Joanne.Savoy@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

12/1/2021

 Peter J. Habighorst

Peter J. Habighorst

Signed by: Peter J. Habighorst

Peter J. Habighorst, Chief  
Export Controls and Nonproliferation Branch  
Office of International Programs

cc w/enclosures:

J. Warden, DOS  
P. Dessaulles, DOE/NMMSS  
S. Clagett, DOC  
E. Daugharty, DOS

J. Semones, DHS/CBP  
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