



Department of Energy
Oak Ridge Operations
Post Office Box 62
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831 -8651

DCD

September 10, 1999

Mr. Steven A. Toelle
Nuclear Regulatory Assurance
and Policy Manager
United States Enrichment Corporation
Two Democracy Center
6903 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, Maryland 20817

Dear Mr. Toelle:

USE OF THE SPECIAL APPLICATIONS PORTABLE INFRARED ANALYZER BUGGY IN THE X-705 WEST ANNEX FOR HEEL REDUCTION ACTIVITIES

By letter dated September 3, 1999, the United States Enrichment Corporation (USEC) requested approval from the Department of Energy for use of a Special Applications Portable Infrared Analyzer (SPIRA) buggy in the X-705 West Annex. This activity is necessary to reduce the heel material in a limited number of highly enriched uranium (HEU) cylinders which were found to contain greater than 1500 grams of ²³⁵U or have damaged cylinder valves.

This letter provides DOE's approval for USEC to conduct these heel reduction efforts. The safety basis and operational assumptions upon which this approval is granted are reflected in the enclosed Operational Readiness Assessment Report (Enclosure 1) and the Safety Evaluation Report (Enclosure 2).

Should there be any questions or comments, please contact me at (423) 576-0802 or David Mardis at (423) 241-4706.

Sincerely,

Randall M. DeVault
Regulatory Oversight Manager
Office of Assistant Manager
for Uranium and Engineering Services

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Enclosures

cc's on Page 2.

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Mr. Steven A. Toelle

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cc w/enclosures:

Y. H. Faraz, NRC, White Flint
R. M. George, NE-40, GTN
E. W. Gillespie, UE-54
A. L. Takacs, UE-54
P. J. Miner, MS-1212, PORTS
G. W. Benedict, UE-50
J. D. Jackson, UE-53

cc w/o enclosures:

M. Galloway, NRC, White Flint
W. S. Schwink, NRC, White Flint
R. C. Pierson, NRC, White Flint
T. D. Reidinger, NRC, Region III
T. T. Slack, CC-10
W. M. Yoder, AD-431, 2714-J