



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

November 16, 1999

Mr. Milton H. Hamilton, Jr.
Commissioner
Department of Environment and Conservation
401 Church Street, L and C Annex
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-1530

Dear Commissioner Hamilton:

I am writing to request your assistance in obtaining information on Tennessee's licensing action involving Manufacturing Sciences Corporation (MSC) to assist us in responding to questions and issues involving the MSC licensing action. I have enclosed a copy of a letter received from Congressmen Dingell, Klink, and Markey on this issue.

We have shared the enclosed letter with your staff, asked for their assistance in helping to provide background information on the MSC amendment, and I am confirming our need for this information and assistance. We would appreciate receiving a summary of the licensing action taken, basis and conclusions reached by Tennessee staff in granting the amendment, and current status of MSC's operations to help us in preparing a complete response to the Congressmen's questions. Please note that we plan to enclose a copy of your response as background information when we send our response forward. We would appreciate your including information addressing the following four points in your response:

1. A description of the activity and authorization granted to MSC under the license by the March 26, 1999 amendment, and current status of the license. (e.g., Are there any conditions which MSC must first fulfill to the State's satisfaction before the amendment becomes fully effective?);
2. A description of the basis and conclusions upon which Tennessee granted the license amendment. (e.g., supporting dose analyses, worker safety analysis, effluent discharge analysis, technical basis for the release limits, and sampling plan approved which MSC will use to determine that, prior to release, material will meet the surface and volumetric limits established in the license);
3. A description of the process which MSC will use to process, decontaminate and release nickel material; and
4. A description of the current status of MSC's activities and operations under the license. (e.g., Have they initiated operations? If not, when do they plan to do so? Have they released any nickel material for unrestricted use under the license?)

We requested this information during a telephone conversation with your staff on November 3, 1999. We understand your staff is working a response. We would appreciate receiving your response by Friday, November 19, 1999. If you believe you will need additional time to respond, please let us know by what date you will be able to provide this information to us.

PDR STPRG

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We also understand you are sending us a copy of the application for the amendment, including all supporting documents, State analyses, State and licensee correspondence, and other documents germane to your review of the application. We appreciate your providing us this information.

Finally, based on current NRC staff understanding and information, NRC staff is not aware of any effect on public health and safety which warrants exercise of NRC's authority under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, to initiate proceedings to suspend or revoke all or part of Tennessee's Agreement. However, we require your assistance and the above information to assist us in carrying out our responsibilities under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, and to assist us in preparing responses to the important technical and public policy questions raised by the MSC action, and identified in the Congressmen's letter.

I thank you in advance for your assistance. If you have any questions, or require further information, please contact Paul H. Lohaus, Director, Office of State Programs at (301) 415-3340.

Sincerely,

**Original Signed by
William D. Travers**

William D. Travers
Executive Director for Operations

Enclosure:
As stated

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***See previous concurrence**

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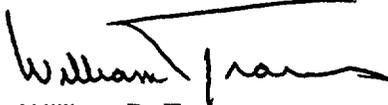
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I thank you in advance for your assistance. If you have any questions, or require further information, please contact Paul H. Lohaus, Director, Office of State Programs at (301) 415-3340.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William D. Travers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

William D. Travers
Executive Director for Operations

Enclosure:
As stated