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Secretary of the Commission
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

OFFICE
ADMINISTRATIVE

Attention: Rulemakings
and Adjudications Staff

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing with two questions related to uranium fuel fabrication plants. I live in St. Louis, about thirty miles from the ABB-Combustion Engineering plant, at Hematite, Missouri, a historic facility licensed in 1956 as the nation's first commercial uranium fuel fabrication plant. The plant was shut down in 1974 and because it was so radioactively contaminated, the plan, after decommissioning the plant, was to ship the debris off to a low-level radioactive waste facility for disposal. Instead, United Nuclear Fuels sold the plant to Combustion Engineering, and it has been operating -- and expanding -- ever since.

1. Would you please tell me the status of the rule that was being proposed in July 1999 for those NRC Part 70 licensees authorized to possess an amount of enriched uranium capable of resulting in a critical mass accident? The proposed amendments were to require that the licensees (a) perform an integrated safety analysis, and (b) design a safety program to provide protection against accidents that could release radioactive and hazardous materials to the environment. If such a rule has been finalized, may I please have a copy?

2. Although I have had concerns about the Hematite plant for years, I have been even more uneasy about its operation subsequent to its takeover by a foreign company, Asea Brown Boveri, as the relatively recent parent company of Combustion Engineering.

My question: would you please explain how a non-American company is allowed to own and control the Hematite plant and its special nuclear materials under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, which has as a stated purpose the "Government control of the possession, use, and production of atomic energy and special nuclear material"? I've also never understood how foreign companies are now being allowed to purchase and own domestic nuclear power plants which also contain and generate special nuclear materials.

I am sorry to have to burden your office directly with these requests for information, but I am not computer web-site literate and do not have ready access to the Federal Register.

I will be happy to pay for any costs involved in retrieving, copying, or mailing this information. If there are any charges, please send your invoice to me at the above address.

Your response will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Kay Drey

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