



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

November 22, 1999

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DOE/OR
NAC/NMSS

Ms. Janice Dunn Lee
Director, International Programs
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Rockville, Maryland

Dear Ms. Lee:

I refer to the letters from your office dated November 8, and October 12, 1999, requesting the views of the Executive Branch as to whether issuance of an export license in accordance with the amended application hereinafter described meets the applicable criteria of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended by the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Act of 1978:

NRC No. XSOU8772 – Amended application by Sogem USA Inc. for authorization to export to Belgium, Germany and Thailand 500,000 kilograms of tantalite and columbite ore concentrates containing approximately 700 kilograms of thorium and 700 kilograms of uranium. The material will be distributed to the other countries by Sogem SA of Brussels. S.A. Minerals Ltd Partnership in Phuket, Thailand, will process the material to increase the tantalum concentration. H.C. Starck GMBH & Co. in Goslar, Germany, will process the concentrated material for recovery and refining of tantalum and niobium for the electronic capacitor and special alloy industries.

It is the judgment of the Executive Branch that the proposed export of this material for non-nuclear use would not be inimical to the common defense and security of the United States, and is consistent with the provisions of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended by the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Act of 1978.

On the basis of the foregoing, the Executive Branch recommends issuance of the requested license.

Sincerely,

Richard J. K. Stratford
Director
Nuclear Energy Affairs

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