



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

January 12, 2012

Mr. Claude L. Harris
Directing Business Representative
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers
Local Lodge 778
9404 Grandview Road
Kansas City, Missouri 64132

Dear Mr. Harris:

The Office of Health, Safety and Security (HSS), in conjunction with the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), conducted a fact finding visit at the Kansas City Plant (KCP) on November 30, 2011. HSS and NNSA (the team) conducted the visit to review areas of concern that were raised in your letter dated October 25, 2011, titled "Environmental Safety Issues at Honeywell Federal Manufacturing & Technologies (FM&T)," related to the break of a water main supplying a fire control sprinkler system that occurred at KCP on October 19, 2011.

The team met with representatives of the NNSA Kansas City Site Office, Honeywell FM&T, and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) to gather information on the water main break and subsequent response, including Honeywell FM&T's analysis of the cause of the water main break and the extent of damage. Additionally, the team reviewed documentation and toured the packaging, receiving, and loading dock areas at the north end of KCP's main building, which was the section directly affected by the water release.

The fire control sprinkler system water main break was attributable to the age of the pipe and the very dry conditions in the Kansas City area, which caused shifting of the soil and overstressed the pipe. The team estimated that 150,000 gallons of Kansas City Municipal system water was released from the 10-inch pipe main in the 18 minutes it took to assess the situation and shut off the water supply. KCP environmental remediation sites were not impacted by the released water.

The water from the pipe break impacted an estimated 60,000 square feet of the KCP, which represents less than two percent of the total plant square footage. Building damage involved a cracked concrete floor (non-load bearing) and fractured gypsum wallboard above floor level on a non-load bearing wall. There was no damage to load bearing structures at the KCP.

Honeywell FM&T facilities maintenance, security, fire personnel, and environmental protection specialist were the first responders to the scene. Water collected from the pipe break was discharged to the KCP Industrial Waste Pre-Treatment Facility (IWPF) via the facility industrial drain system. This was consistent with expected practice for events



where the source is known to be city water and it is released to an area with no known contamination.

During the onsite visit, the team evaluated the methods used for subsequent plant recovery. Honeywell FM&T contracted Service Master, who mobilized to the site with a vacuum truck and water extraction devices routinely used in its business. The KCP safety engineer provided a pre-job safety brief and job hazards analysis for Service Master personnel to address hazards and controls associated with planned clean-up activity. KCP representatives evaluated clean-up operations and plans to ensure material was collected and managed in accordance with established procedures. Service Master discharged the water into sumps connected to the IWPF.

The team explored the security concerns raised in your letter. The impacted departments were swept by KCP personnel to ensure all classified materials were removed and secured prior to uncleared access. All plant security procedures were followed for the duration of the response and clean-up activities. All subcontract personnel responding to the scene were U. S. citizens and were badged through normal security processes for access as uncleared personnel. They were escorted for the duration of their onsite activities.

The pipe break temporarily impaired the KCP fire protection system. As an interim measure, the system was back-fed from an adjacent water pipe. A fire watch was initiated for the impacted area as additional protection. Honeywell FM&T repaired the fire protection system and restored it to fully operational status on November 2, 2011. Honeywell FM&T personnel notified their management and NNSA leadership when the water main break first occurred and during the response. Additionally, Honeywell FM&T notified MDNR personnel and kept them updated throughout the event. MDNR oversaw clean-up operations by periodically observing the work.

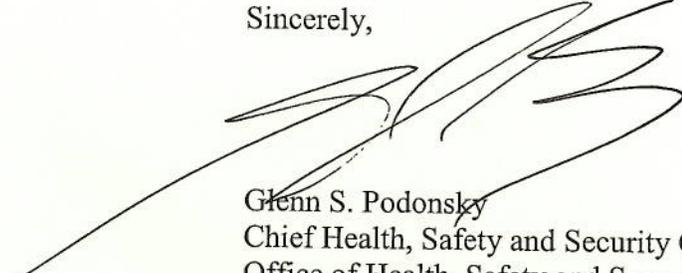
The team determined from analysis of the information provided by Honeywell FM&T and the fact finding visit to KCP that the response to the fire control sprinkler system water main break was consistent with expected practice. Response and clean-up workers were qualified for the tasks, and the wastewater in an area with no known contamination was appropriately handled. The team concluded that Honeywell FM&T followed the proper safety and security procedures during the initial response and the subsequent clean-up. Honeywell FM&T implemented interim fire protection measures to address system impairment during the clean-up and the fire protection system is now fully functional. The appropriate authorities were notified. There is no evidence that the Kansas City wastewater stream was compromised as a result of this event.

Your October 25, 2011, letter requested disclosure of test results, certification records, employment documentation, and other written information related to this event. KCP representatives have indicated that they will provide union representatives with the requested information related to the fire system water main break upon request.

We appreciate your interest in the safety and health of workers at the KCP and the citizens of the surrounding community. By seriously addressing concerns, the Department of Energy will continue to improve safety programs throughout its facilities.

If you have any additional questions regarding this matter, please contact me at 202-586-0271, or you may contact Mr. John S. Boulden III, Director, Office of Enforcement and Oversight, at 301-903-2178.

Sincerely,



Glenn S. Podonsky
Chief Health, Safety and Security Officer
Office of Health, Safety and Security

cc: ✓ Senator Roy Blunt, United States Senate
Senator Claire McCaskill, United States Senate
P. Gruber, GVP, Midwest Territory, IAMAW
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