



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

February 4, 2000

PDR
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NMSS
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 letter from your office dated December 17, 1999 requesting the views of the Executive Branch as to whether issuance of an export license in accordance with the application hereinafter described meets the applicable criteria of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended:

NRC No. XSOU8777 -- Application by Cabot Corporation for authorization to export to China 500,000 kilograms of tantalite ore concentrate containing approximately 2,125 kilograms of thorium and 1,610 kilograms of uranium. The tantalite will be processed to recover potassium tantalum fluoride for sale to Cabot Corporation for capacitor manufacture. The thorium and uranium are contaminants which will not be recovered in this production process. The processing in China will be performed by the following companies:

Zhuzhou Cemented Carbide Import/Export Works Co., Zhuzhou, Hunan;

Hengyang Kingxing-Lifeng New Materials Co. Ltd., Hengyang City, Hunan;

Conghua Tantalum & Niobium Smelter, Conghua, Guangdong;

Limu Nonferrous Co. Ltd., Limu, Guangxi;

Douloshan Sapphire Rare Metal Co. Ltd., Sihui, Hunan; and

Jiujiang Nonfemet Factory (806), Jiugiang, Jiangxi.

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.

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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