Nontimely filings of petitions for leave to intervene, amended petitions, supplemental petitions and/or requests for hearing will not be entertained absent a determination by the Commission, the presiding officer or the presiding Atomic Safety and Licensing Board that the petition and/or request should be granted based upon a balancing of the factors specified in 10 CFR 2.714(a)(1)(i)–(v) and 2.714(d).

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated September 13, 1995, as amended on November 27, 1995, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, William Madison Randall Library, 601 S. College Road, Wilmington, North Carolina 28403–3297.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 5th day of December 1995.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

David C. Trimble,

Project Manager, Project Directorate II–1, Division of Reactor Projects—I/II, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

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[IA 95–058]

Five Star Products, Inc. and Construction Products Research, Fairfield, CT and H. Nash Babcock, Order

I

Five Star Products, Inc. (FSP), is a company located in Fairfield, Connecticut, and was formerly known as U.S. Grout Corporation. FSP manufactures and sells grout and concrete products to the nuclear industry and has done so for about 20 years. Through a holding company, Mr. Babcock owns FSP and several related businesses, including Construction Products Research, Inc. (CPR), which performs laboratory tests of FSP products. Mr. Babcock is Vice-President of FSP and President of CPR.

II

FSP submitted its grout and concrete products to CPR for testing. Following the tests, CPR issued certifications that it tested FSP products in conformance with certain specifications of the American Society for Testing and Materials. FSP subsequently utilized those certifications as the basis for certifying that its products satisfied Appendix B and customer Purchase Order (PO) requirements. At various times since 1980, FSP has advertised and represented to NRC licensees that its products are manufactured in accordance with the requirements of Appendix B. It has supplied products pursuant to purchase orders requiring FSP to meet the requirements of Appendix B, and 10 CFR Part 21. Licensees who have purchased material from FSP under FSP's certification of quality have used the grout and concrete in safety-related applications and as basic components.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or Commission) issued 10 CFR Part 21 (Part 21) to implement Section 206 of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974. Part 21 imposes, *inter alia*, evaluation and reporting requirements on directors and responsible officers of firms which supply basic components of any facility or activity which is licensed or otherwise regulated pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, or the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974. Basic components are structures, systems, or parts in which a defect or failure to comply with applicable requirements could create a substantial safety hazard. 10 CFR 21.3(a). Part 21 is implemented in conjunction with Appendix B, which contains the quality assurance (QA) criteria applicable to design, fabrication, construction, and testing of safety-related structures, systems, and components in commercial nuclear power plants. Together, these requirements are intended to assure the safety of safety-related components, materials, and services for nuclear power plants.

Section 206 of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 requires directors and responsible officers of firms constructing, owning, operating or supplying the basic components of a facility or activity licensed or regulated by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, who obtain information regarding defects in those basic components, or failures of basic components, or of the facility to comply with NRC requirements, to notify the NRC of those defects and failures to comply. Section 206(d) authorizes the Commission to conduct inspections and other enforcement activities necessary to insure compliance with that section. 10 CFR 21.41 and 21.51 implement Section 206(d).

III

The NRC conducts inspections of vendors who supply safety-related components pursuant to Appendix B and who supply basic components pursuant to Part 21. On August 18, 1992, the NRC began an unannounced inspection of FSP, and of its laboratory contractor, CPR, to determine the extent to which FSP supplied basic components to NRC licensees, the adequacy of FSP's QA Program, the adequacy of CPR's testing of FSP products, and the adequacy of FSP products.

Shortly after the inspection began, Mr. Babcock met with the inspection team and questioned the NRC's authority to conduct the inspection. Mr. Babcock was presented with two identical letters from the NRC staff, dated August 13, 1992, each addressed separately to FSP and CPR. The letters outlined the NRC's inspection authority under 10 CFR Part 21, Section 161o of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (AEA), and Section 206(d) of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974, as amended (ERA). Despite this, Mr. Babcock continued to question the NRC's authority and, throughout the inspection, denied the inspectors access to inspect CPR's testing laboratory, which was located in the basement of FSP's Fairfield, Connecticut, headquarters, and access to inspect CPR's laboratory records.

During the inspection of August 18 and 19, 1992, the inspection team reviewed NRC power reactor licensee POs submitted to Five Star in order to determine the scope of FSP's nuclear involvement. The team was provided with POs for the period 1988 to 1992. Those POs demonstrate that at least seven NRC reactor licensees and one licensee contractor had issued POs to FSP for safety-related grout and concrete mix products, and had specified compliance with Appendix B and Part 21.

The inspection team reviewed copies of several NRC licensee audit reports of FSP and CPR. These reports documented that NRC licensee requests to audit CPR's test laboratory and records were consistently denied by FSP. Further, several NRC licensee audit reports found that FSP's QA program was not acceptable and did not meet certain requirements of Appendix B.

The NRC inspection team requested copies of all audits performed by FSP of CPR to determine CPR's compliance with the quality assurance criteria of Appendix B and Part 21. Only one FSP audit of CPR was performed, by the FSP QA Manager, and it was provided to the NRC inspection team by the FSP QA Manager. The July 31, 1992 audit report concluded that CPR's June 10, 1992 QA program was satisfactory. The format and most of the language of this report were identical to a report of an audit conducted by Toledo Edison, an NRC