



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

February 7, 2000

Mr. Roy Prescott
Jerome County Commissioner
300 North Lincoln, Room 300
Jerome, ID 83338

Dear Mr. Prescott:

We are in receipt of your letter to Charles Hackney of our Region IV Office regarding the response to the Allied Technology Group Inc. (ATG) event involving the transport of empty radiological resin containers in October, 1999. We received a similar letter from the Adjutant General as well. As the responsible NRC Program Office, we are providing a response to your letter. Your comments reflect both dissatisfaction with the timeliness of the report to the affected States and a request for follow-up by the NRC as the principal regulatory body.

This incident was brought to the attention of the NRC through an event report we received from the State of Washington, an agreement state, on October 20, 1999, indicating that during offloading of the empty shipping containers the day before, some residual contamination was discovered on the truck bed. The contamination was discovered by the ATG personnel upon inspection of the vehicle and reported to the State of Washington as per agreement state procedure. The NRC licenses agreement states to assume some of the regulatory responsibilities of the NRC as part of the agreement. Among the responsibilities delegated is the inspection of shipments of radiological materials, when warranted. Therefore, the State of Washington was fulfilling a regulatory requirement in reporting this event.

As you know this shipment began in Tennessee, also an agreement State and passed through six additional states, including Idaho, on its way to Washington. The NRC's involvement in the response to this event was to assist the States in their response efforts with the coordinated assets of the Federal government. In this regard, the NRC coordinated the response of the Federal agencies in support of requests for assistance received from any of the affected States. Each State has a Governor appointed State Liaison Officer (SLO). The SLO is the NRC's primary contact for relaying areas of interest to the Governor's Office. One of our principal activities was to convene a series of conference calls with State and Federal representatives, including the Idaho SLO to assure that all needs were met. In addition, we were involved in the disposition of the Department of Energy's radiological assistance program resources in providing radiological monitoring assistance to some of the States. The Allied Technology Group, Inc., was cooperative in working with the responders in identifying the exact route of the truck but did have difficulty locating the driver to confirm those locations.

In talking with the NRC representatives in our Region IV Office, I know that you are aware of our efforts to review internal procedures related to responding to this event. We will be issuing a lessons learned report detailing areas of improvement in the procedures followed in this type of event.

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Mr. Roy Prescott

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We appreciate your comments. We will take them into consideration in developing our program and look forward to a continuing positive working relationship with all Agreement and non-Agreement States in the future.

If you have any further questions, please call me at (301) 415-7476.

Sincerely,

/s/ FJCongel

Frank J. Congel, Director
Incident Response Operations

cc: John Erickson, WA State
John Francis, FHA, Idaho

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