

August 7, 2000

MEMORANDUM TO: Those on the Attached List

FROM: William F. Kane, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Samuel J. Collins, Director /RA/ RPZ for
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: CASE-SPECIFIC LICENSING DECISIONS ON RELEASE OF
SOLID MATERIALS FROM LICENSED FACILITIES

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform staff within Headquarters and the Regional Offices of the approach that should be used at this time for making decisions on specific licensing actions, as well as any generic requests, concerning release of solid materials.

Existing NRC regulations do not contain generally applicable standards for the control of solid materials with relatively small amounts of radioactivity in, or on, materials and equipment. A paper has been provided to the Commission (SECY-00-0070) which recommends, in part, that a final decision be deferred on rulemaking on the control of solid materials, pending the outcome of a National Academy of Sciences study of alternatives. During this period, it is expected that licensees will continue to seek to release solid materials and that these will continue to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis using existing guidance, e.g. application of Regulatory Guide 1.86 and its equivalent, Fuel Cycle Policy and Guidance Directive FC 83-23, for materials licensees and Office of Inspection and Enforcement Circular 81-07 and Information Notices 85-92 and 88-22 for reactor facilities.

To ensure a consistent approach for controlling the release of solid materials, NRC reviews of licensee requests to release solid materials using criteria other than those in existing guidance are to be coordinated with NMSS or NRR Divisions. A list of staff contacts is provided in Attachment A. This approach will continue to remain in effect until Commission-directed studies, such as the NAS study, have been completed.

Attachment: As stated

CONTACT: Tony Huffert, NMSS/DWM
(301) 415-6416

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NAME:	AHuffert*	JGreeves* JM for	DCool*	GTracy*
DATE:	7/ 19 /2000	7/ 20/2000	7/20 /2000	7/ 21 /2000
OFFICE:	STP	OGC	D/NMSS	D/NRR
NAME:	PLohaus*	KCyr* HNewsom for	WKane	SCollins
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Addressees - Memorandum Dated August 7, 2000

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John W. Craig
Assistant for Operations

Joseph R. Gray, Associate General Counsel
for Licensing and Regulation
Office of the General Counsel

Ashok C. Thadani, Director
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

Paul H. Lohaus, Director
Office of State and Tribal Programs

Janice Dunn Lee, Director
Office of International Programs

Hubert J. Miller, Administrator
Region I

Luis A. Reyes, Administrator
Region II

James E. Dyer, Administrator
Region III

Ellis W. Merschoff, Administrator
Region IV

John Greeves, Director
Division of Waste Management, NMSS

William Brach, Director
Spent Fuel Project Office, NMSS

Donald Cool, Director
Division of Industrial and
Medical Nuclear Safety, NMSS

Mike Weber, Director
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
and Safeguards, NMSS

Attachment A

List of NRC Staff Contacts for Requests Concerning the Release of Solid Materials

NRC Office	NRC Division	Name	Contact
Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards	Division of Waste Management	Tony Huffert	Tel: 301-415-6416 Fax: 301-415-5398 email: amh1@nrc.gov Mail Stop: T8-F37
Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards	Division of Industrial, Medical and Nuclear Safety	Frank Cardile	Tel: 301-415-6185 Fax: 301-415-5385 email: fpc@nrc.gov Mail Stop: T9-F31
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation	Division of Inspection Program Management	Steve Klementowicz	Tel: 301-415-1084 Fax: 301-415-2968 email: sxk@nrc.gov Mail Stop: 06-H16