

September 20, 2000
GEN-3274

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Via Overnight Express ServiceSecretary
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C., 20555
Attention: Rulemaking and Adjudication StaffDOCKET NUMBER
PROPOSED RULE **PR 71**
(65 FR 44360)**Subject: Comments on Issues Paper Re: Major Revision to 10 CFR Part 71****Reference: Brach, William E., Letter Dated July 10, 2000 with enclosed "Issues Paper" [7590-01-P]**

The purpose of this letter is to submit written comments on the referenced "Issues Paper" and to acknowledge General Atomics' (GA's) intent to attend the public meeting scheduled to be held in Oakland, California on September 26, 2000.

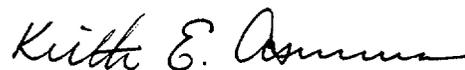
With regard to Issue 8, "Grandfathering Previously Approved Packages," of the "Issues Paper," GA submits the following comments:

There are existing casks still being safely used that were designed and approved under the version of 10 CFR 71 equivalent to the 1967 edition of IAEA SS No. 6. On the basis that the casks have been shipped safely since their licensing and fabrication, "grandfathering" should be continued. They should be allowed to continue to be used unless a significant unresolved safety issue is identified. Based upon the casks' good safety records, there is no need for recertifying those existing casks to revised regulations; and the cost to do so would be prohibitive.

If the regulations are revised every two years, the original design of every cask might have to be recertified because of the time frame required for design, licensing and fabrication. This would be an unnecessary exercise for those casks that have a demonstrated record of safety, and there would be no commensurate increase in safety as a result of the additional cost associated with recertifying.

General Atomics appreciates this opportunity for dialog on this important rule-making. Cognizant contacts at GA are myself at (858) 455-2823, and Mr. Alan Zimmer at (858) 455-4326.

Very truly yours,

Keith E. Asmussen, Ph.D.
Director, Licensing, Safety and
Nuclear Compliance

cc: A. Zimmer

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