

April 4, 1997

MEMORANDUM TO: L. Joseph Callan  
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: John C. Hoyle, Secretary /s/

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - SECY-97-047 - CHANGES TO  
10 CFR 71.63, REQUIREMENTS FOR SHIPPING  
PACKAGES USED TO TRANSPORT VITRIFIED HIGH-  
LEVEL WASTE

The Commission has approved publication of the proposed amendments to 10 CFR Part 71 in the Federal Register to allow for a 75 day public comment period, subject to the comments and editorial changes below.

(EDO)

(SECY Suspense: 5/2/97)

The staff should conduct a review of DOE's information in their "Technical Justification to Support the PRM by the DOE to Exempt HLW Canisters from 10 CFR 71.63(b)" in enough detail to provide the staff confidence that DOE's conclusions appear to be substantiated. The FRN should include a discussion of the NRC analysis and, that based on this information, the NRC essentially agrees with DOE's conclusions.

If the reduced Pu concentration in the vitrified high-level waste is part of the justification for exemption of this form of waste from the double containment requirements, then that fact should be a part of the regulatory requirements for this form of waste. If not, the staff should so state.

The values and impacts section of the Regulatory Analysis should be expanded to explain the basis for the statements that loading and unloading time as well as occupational exposures will be reduced as a result of this action.

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SECY NOTE: THIS SRM, SECY-97-047, AND THE COMMISSION VOTING RECORD CONTAINING THE VOTE SHEETS OF ALL COMMISSIONERS WILL BE MADE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE 5 WORKING DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THIS SRM.

The proposed letters to the Congressional subcommittee chairs should be modified by inserting the following new sentence after the word 'unnecessary' in line 10: 'This approach is consistent with that currently used for the shipment of nuclear reactor fuel elements.'

cc: Chairman Jackson  
Commissioner Rogers  
Commissioner Dicus  
Commissioner Diaz  
Commissioner McGaffigan  
OGC  
CIO  
CFO  
OCA  
OIG  
Office Directors, Regions, ACRS, ACNW, ASLBP (via E-Mail)  
PDR  
DCS