

January 19, 2001

Mr. Paul Leventhal, President
Nuclear Control Institute
1000 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 204
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Mr. Leventhal:

Thank you for your letter dated December 18, 2000 regarding the application (XSNM03171) submitted by Transnuclear, Inc. (Transnuclear) requesting authority to export 10.05 kilograms of highly enriched uranium (HEU) to Canada, proposed for use in the NRU reactor to sustain production of medical isotopes. In your letter, you make clear that you do not oppose the requested export, but urge that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) consider (1) approving the export of the requested HEU for use at the NRU reactor as an amendment to Transnuclear's existing license for the MAPLE reactors, and (2) using this opportunity to encourage further United States-Canadian cooperation to facilitate LEU target development for the MAPLE reactors before the associated New Processing Facility becomes operational.

The NRC staff is currently in the process of reviewing Transnuclear's application, as well as related information. At present, the NRC staff has not yet received the Executive Branch's views on the application. The staff will present the results of its review and analysis to the Commission when completed.

Please be assured that the points raised and suggestions made in your letter will be considered in the NRC's review and analysis of the application.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard A. Meserve