

July 24, 2001

Mr. Neil A. Passman, Vice-President
Standish Technologies International
1045 North Canel Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15215

Dear Mr. Passman:

I am responding to your July 9, 2001, letter in which you requested an extension to the comment period on the proposed rule amending the material control and accounting regulations (May 30, 2001; 66 FR 29251). You state that U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission representatives at the Nuclear Material Management Safeguards System (NMMSS) Users meeting indicated that changes to NUREG/BR-007 and NMMSS D-24, "Personal Computer Data Input for NRC Licensees" were planned to enable tracking of foreign obligations. As these documents are also mentioned in the proposed rulemaking, you requested that the documents be made available for review, to determine the burden of the information collection.

I am denying your request for an extension of the public comment period on the proposed material control and accounting rule. No changes to either NUREG/BR-007 or NMMSS D-24 are necessary to support the proposed rule changes; therefore, additional time to review these documents is not necessary. The changes to NUREG/BR-007 and NMMSS D-24 discussed at the NMMSS Users meeting concerned tracking of foreign obligations and the planned NMMSS upgrade. As neither of these issues is related to the proposed rule, I see no need to extend the comment period.

The necessary changes to NUREG/BR-007 and NMMSS D-24 to support the NMMSS upgrade and foreign-obligation tracking are currently being developed. The user community will be kept informed of these changes through the NMMSS Users group. There will be an opportunity for public comment on the information collection before implementation.

If you have any further questions on the material control and accounting proposed rule, please contact Ms. Merri Horn of my staff at (301) 415-8126. Questions on NMMSS or the foreign-obligation tracking should be referred to Mr. Brian Horn of my staff at (301) 415-8128. Questions on the NMMSS upgrade may be referred to Ms. Chiquita Collins of my staff at (301) 415-6337.

Sincerely,

/RA M.Federline for

Martin J. Virgilio, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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