

August 30, 2001

P. Saint Raymond, Le Directeur Adjoint
Direction de la surete des installation nuclearies
Ministere de L'Amenagement du Territorie
et de L'Environnement
Route du Panorama Robert Schuman
BP 83 92266
Fontenay-Aux-Roses Cedex
France

SUBJECT: JL SHEPHERD & ASSOCIATES, LOCATED IN THE UNITED STATES

Dear Mr. Saint Raymond:

I wish to thank you for sending to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), a copy of your letter to JL Shepherd & Associates (JLS&A) dated April 17, 2001. Your letter denied their application to revalidate a U.S. Department of Transportation/NRC Type USA/6280/B transportation package. You found that the application did not demonstrate that the safety level of the package was set to an acceptable level. In earlier correspondence with JLS&A, you had also noted that the package did not conform with the Certificate of Compliance.

Based on this information, NRC staff conducted a special inspection of JLS&A. The inspection identified significant, widespread, and longstanding concerns with the implementation of the JLS&A Quality Assurance (QA) program. JLS&A uses this program to ensure that the design, use, repair, and maintenance of transportation packages meets NRC regulations in 10 CFR Part 71, "Packaging and Transportation of Radioactive Material."

As a result of our inspection findings, NRC no longer has confidence in JLS&A's implementation of the QA program approved by NRC. Therefore, by Order, NRC has withdrawn its approval of JLS&A's QA program until the company implements effective corrective actions to restore its QA program to meet NRC requirements.

Your letter reconfirms our belief that transportation activities are truly regulated on a cooperative international basis, to ensure the safe transport of radioactive material.

Thank you for bringing these safety concerns to our attention.

Sincerely,

/s/ by MVFederline for /RA/

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

cc: A-C Lacoste, Director DSIN

P. Saint Raymond, Le Directeur Adjoint
Direction de la surete des installation nuclearies
Ministere de L'Amenagment du Territorie
et de L'Environnement
Route du Panorama Robert Schuman
BP 83 92266
Fontenay-Aux-Roses Cedex
France

August 30, 2001

SUBJECT: JL SHEPHERD & ASSOCIATES, LOCATED IN THE UNITED STATES

Dear Mr. Saint Raymond:

I wish to thank you for sending to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), a copy of your letter to JL Shepherd & Associates (JLS&A) dated April 17, 2001. Your letter denied their application to revalidate a U.S. Department of Transportation/NRC Type USA/6280/B transportation package. You found that the application did not demonstrate that the safety level of the package was set to an acceptable level. In earlier correspondence with JLS&A, you had also noted that the package did not conform with the Certificate of Compliance.

Based on this information, NRC staff conducted a special inspection of JLS&A. The inspection identified significant, widespread, and longstanding concerns with the implementation of the JLS&A Quality Assurance (QA) program. JLS&A uses this program to ensure that the design, use, repair, and maintenance of transportation packages meets NRC regulations in 10 CFR Part 71, "Packaging and Transportation of Radioactive Material."

As a result of our inspection findings, NRC no longer has confidence in JLS&A's implementation of the QA program approved by NRC. Therefore, by Order, NRC has withdrawn its approval of JLS&A's QA program until the company implements effective corrective actions to restore its QA program to meet NRC requirements.

Your letter reconfirms our belief that transportation activities are truly regulated on a cooperative international basis, to ensure the safe transport of radioactive material.

Thank you for bringing these safety concerns to our attention.

Sincerely,
/s/ by MVFederline **for** /RA/

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

cc: A-C Lacoste, Director DSIN

DISTRIBUTION: NRC File Center Public SFPO r/f NMSS r/f NMSS Dir.Off. r/f
RO'Connell,IMNS HFaulkner,OIP HMcGurren,OGC FCongel,OE

GSmith, EDO - please sent to the Commission via a C-note. Chairman to meet with the Director of DSIN in late September

*SEE PREVIOUS CONCURRENCE

ML012350397

OFC	SFPO*	E	SFPO*	E	Tech Editor*	N	SFPO*	C	SFPO*	C
NAME	SBaggett		TKobetz		Ekraus by fax		MSDelligatti		MWHodges	
DATE	8/10/01		8/14/01		8/10 /01		8/14/01		8/14/01	

OFC	SFPO*	C	SFPO*	C	OIP*	C	NMSS	C	NMSS	C
NAME	CLMiller		EWBrach		JDunn-Lee		MVFederline		MVF for JVirgilio	
DATE	8/15/01		8/14/01		8/15/01		8/30/01		8/30/01	