

May 6, 2002

Mr. Paul Leventhal
President
Nuclear Control Institute
1000 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 410
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Mr. Leventhal:

I am writing on behalf of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in response to your letter of April 4, 2002, concerning the application from Transnuclear, Inc. to amend NRC license XSNM03171/01. The amended license would increase the total quantity of highly enriched uranium (HEU) metal authorized for export to Canada by ten kilograms and would extend the expiration date of that license from September 30, 2002, to April 30, 2003. As you know, the amended license would support continued medical isotope production using the NRU reactor and associated processing facility.

The NRC is now reviewing the application in accordance with the relevant statutory criteria. The results of that review will be provided to the Commission for consideration in the near future. In addition, the NRC continues to monitor the status of the MAPLE reactors and New Processing Facility. A detailed annual report updating the status of the program to convert those facilities to use low enriched uranium (LEU) instead of HEU targets is due to NRC on May 31, 2002.

The NRC appreciates the views and recommendations expressed in your letter and will take them into consideration as it acts on this matter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard A. Meserve

cc: Alan J. Kuperman, NCI