

June 13, 2002

Mr. Gary N. Nugent
Chief Executive Officer
Department of Veterans Affairs
Nebraska - Western Iowa Health Care System
Omaha, NE 68105

SUBJECT: SHIPMENT OF IRRADIATED REACTOR FUEL

Reference: Letter from Department of Veterans Affairs to the NRC dated June 10, 2002
(# 636/151C)

Dear Mr. Nugent:

This letter documents a conference call on June 13, 2002, between you, members of your staff in Omaha, Department of Veterans Affairs staff in Washington, DC, and U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) headquarters staff (Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, and Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response) regarding shipment of irradiated reactor fuel from the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Omaha, Nebraska that was discussed in your letter to the NRC referenced above.

As we discussed in the conference call, absent the NRC performing an independent review of your calculations contained in the June 10 letter and based upon the nature of the current threat environment, the NRC believes that the most prudent, conservative, and expeditious course of action is to treat this material as if it meets the definition of spent nuclear fuel found in 10 CFR 73.37(a). Accordingly, this material should be transported by you, or your agent, in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 73.37 and 73.21 and advance notification should also be made to the NRC in accordance with 10 CFR 73.72. We also understand that you intend to comply with NRC Security Advisory SA-01-02, dated December 13, 2001, on the shipment of irradiated reactor fuel.

We have placed a high priority on completing the staff reviews necessary to approve the route you have proposed for shipment of this material, to enable you to meet your proposed shipment schedule. If you have further questions on this matter, please contact Mr. Alexander Adams, Jr. at 301-415-1127.

Sincerely,

/RA/
E. William Brach, Director
Spent Fuel Project Office
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No. 50-131

Omaha Veterans Administration
Medical Center

Docket No. 50-131

cc:

Mayor
City of Omaha
Omaha, NE 68102

Mr. John P. Classen
Reactor Manager/Supervisor
Omaha Veterans Administration
Medical Center
4101 Woolworth Ave.
Omaha, NE 68105

Test, Research, and Training
Reactor Newsletter
University of Florida
202 Nuclear Sciences Center
Gainesville, FL 32611

Ms. Julie Schmitt, Program Manager
Department of Health and Human Services
P.O. Box 95007
Lincoln, NE 68509-5007

Ms. Brenda Hebert (12C1)
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20420

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Sincerely,

Original signed by C. Miller
E. William Brach, Director
Spent Fuel Project Office
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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