

November 12, 2002

Grant Malkoske, Chairman
Gamma Industry Processing Alliance
c/o MDS Nordion
447 March Road
Kanata, ON K2K-1X8
Canada

SUBJECT: DRAFT SECURITY MEASURES FOR TRANSPORT OF LARGE QUANTITIES
OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL

Dear Mr. Malkoske:

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your September 9, 2002, letter on behalf of the Gamma Industry Processing Alliance in which you express concerns about additional security measures [i.e., draft Interim Compensatory Measures (ICMs)] being considered by the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for the transportation of large quantities of radioactive material (LQ RAM). You and other stakeholders raised these same concerns during an August 20, 2002, meeting to discuss these draft ICMs.

We note your support of the NRC's initiative to identify and define additional security measures after the terrorist events of September 11, 2001. We intend to carefully choose the ICMs, which enhance existing regulatory requirements, to provide the Commission with reasonable assurance that the common defense and security will be adequately protected in the current threat environment. We understand that ensuring adequate protection without imposing an unnecessary burden is important to the ongoing viability of the gamma irradiation industry, which performs such an important service to the global healthcare and food-safety communities.

We agree that the new security measures should be chosen and applied prudently. We will consider your suggestion that the use of armed guards not be a mandatory requirement, but left as an option for jurisdictional authorities to include when deemed appropriate. We also will be considering alternative methods or technologies to the use of armed escorts, as appropriate, such as the use of enhanced tracking/response technologies.

We recognize your leadership in establishing the Gamma Industry Processing Alliance and appreciate the Alliance's comments on this matter. We will carefully consider your comments as part of the Commission's efforts to issue ICMs for the transportation of LQ RAM. I would also note that as part of that effort, the NRC intends to hold a second stakeholder meeting to further discuss the draft LQ RAM transportation ICMs. The date for the second stakeholder meeting has not yet been set and we will inform you of this meeting when it is scheduled.

G. Malkoske

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If you have any questions, suggestions, or comments, please feel free to contact Mr. Philip Brochman at 301-415-6557 or Mr. Francis (Skip) Young at 301-415-6396.

Sincerely,

/RA M. Weber for R. Zimmerman/

Roy P. Zimmerman, Director
Office of Nuclear Security and
Incident Response

cc: Chairman Meserve
Commissioner Dicus
Commissioner Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield
SECY
OGC
OCA
OPA
CFO

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Roy P. Zimmerman, Director
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