

November 13, 2002

Mr. C. W. Bassett
Vallecitos Nuclear Center
6705 Vallecitos Road
Sunol, CA 94586

SUBJECT: CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE NO. 5939 FOR THE MODEL NO. 1500
PACKAGE

Dear Mr. Bassett:

As requested by Neutron Products, Inc., application dated February 1, 2002, as supplemented September 23 and October 10, 2002, enclosed is Certificate of Compliance No. 5939, Revision No. 30, for the Model No. 1500 package. This certificate supersedes, in its entirety, Certificate of Compliance No. 5939, Revision No. 29, dated November 21, 2001. Changes made to the enclosed certificate are indicated by vertical lines in the margin. The staff's Safety Evaluation Report is also enclosed.

Those on the attached list have been registered as users of the package under the general license provisions of 10 CFR 71.12 or 49 CFR 173.471. The approval constitutes authority to use the package for shipment of radioactive material and for the package to be shipped in accordance with the provisions of 49 CFR 173.471.

If you have any questions regarding this certificate, please contact me or Nancy Osgood of my staff at (301) 415-8500.

Sincerely,

/RA/
John D. Monninger, Chief
Licensing Section
Spent Fuel Project Office
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No. 71-5939
TAC No. L23418

Enclosures: 1. Certificate of Compliance
No. 5939, Rev. No. 30
2. Safety Evaluation Report

cc w/encl: R. Boyle, Department of Transportation
M. Turkanis, Neutron Products, Inc.
RAMCERTS
Registered Users

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SAFETY EVALUATION REPORT
Model No. 1500 Package
Certificate of Compliance No. 5939
Revision No. 30

SUMMARY

By application dated February 1, 2002, as supplemented September 23 and October 10, 2002, Neutron Products, Inc. (NPI) requested an amendment to Certificate of Compliance No. 5939 for the Model No. 1500 package. NPI requested that the packaging owned by the company (Serial Number 1506) be authorized for wet loading and unloading. By supplement dated October 10, 2002, NPI provided updated operating and maintenance procedures for their packaging. The Certificate of Compliance has been amended to specify that packaging Serial Number 1506 must be operated and maintained in accordance with the NPI procedures. The updated operating and maintenance procedures include cask cavity drying and bubble testing instructions.

EVALUATION

The Model 1500 package was previously authorized for wet loading and unloading. On November 21, 2001, the certificate was amended to restrict operations to dry loading and unloading only (Certificate of Compliance No. 5939, Revision No. 29). This was done at the request of the certificate holder, General Electric Company, Vallecitos Nuclear Center. GE stated that it no longer used the wet loading procedure and did not want to perform the periodic bubble test required for packagings that were loaded or unloaded underwater. The bubble test was used to detect defects in the cavity bottom weld and cavity-to-drain weld that could allow water to enter the lead region during wet loading or unloading operations. Defects in these welds had been previously identified in some packagings of the Model No. 1500 design.

On February 1, 2002, NPI requested that the wet loading and unloading procedures be reinstated for its packaging, Serial Number 1506. NPI stated that the package had been used for over 100 shipments, most of which involved wet loading or unloading, without problems. To support the request, on October 10, 2002, Neutron Products provided updated operating and maintenance procedures for the package. These procedures included loading and unloading procedures for dry and wet operations. The procedures also include instructions for drying the cask cavity for packages loaded underwater, and a periodic bubble test, performed within the 12-month period preceding each shipment and after each third use of the packaging. The staff reviewed the updated operating and maintenance procedures and found them acceptable.

CONCLUSION

The Certificate of Compliance has been amended to specify that packaging Serial Number 1506 must be operated and maintained in accordance with the procedures submitted in Neutron Products supplement dated October 10, 2002. These procedures include wet and dry loading and unloading, cask cavity drying procedures for wet loading, and periodic bubble testing of the cask. These changes do not affect the ability of the package to meet the requirements of 10 CFR Part 71.

Issued with Certificate of Compliance No. 5939,
Revision No. 30, on November 13, 2002.