



General Electric Company  
Vallecitos Nuclear Center  
P.O. Box 460, Vallecitos Road  
Pleasanton, CA 94566

December 12, 1997

Mr. Cass R. Chappell, Section Chief  
Package Certification Section  
Storage and Transportation Systems Branch  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20555-0001

- References:
- 1) Certificate of Compliance No. 5939; Docket No. 71-5939
  - 2) B. M. Murray to Cass R. Chappell, Request for renewal of Certificate of Compliance No. 5939, 11/19/97.
  - 3) C. W. Bassett to U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Incident Investigation No. 97-2, November 4, 1997.

Dear Mr. Chappell:

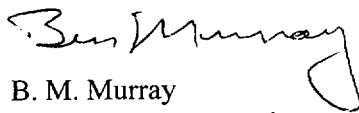
The General Electric Company (GE) respectfully requests the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to accept an amendment to the previously submitted request for renewal of the Certificate of Compliance No. 5939 for the Model 1500 shipping container (Ref. 2). The requested amendment modifies the generic Model 1500 loading procedure to include a revision of the vacuum drying procedure. The enclosed "Generic Model 1500 Type B Shipping Package Loading Procedure" dated November 16, 1992 and modified by Operations Change Notice (OCN) 1561 (11/21/97), and OCN 1562 (12/09/97) incorporates changes to the vacuum drying procedure.

These changes resulted from the responses to the investigation (Ref. 3) of a gasket failure on a shipment of sealed cobalt-60 sources in the serial number 1507 cask. The investigation concluded that excessive internal pressure resulted from the vaporization of residual moisture inside the cavity of the 1507 cask. The resolution to this problem was to revise the drying procedure to require the verification of a full cold trap, to verify the continued decline in the cavity pressure after reaching an absolute pressure of 2.5 torr, for a period of five minutes, and to assure that the cavity was isolated from the cold trap before shutting off the vacuum pump (to prevent back-flow to the cavity).

1/1

NTD!

If you require any additional information regarding this matter please contact me on (510) 862-4455.

  
B. M. Murray  
Senior Licensing Engineer

170147

9712180398 971212  
PDR ADOCK 07105939  
C PDR

