



November 10, 2004
SHP-3813

Via Express Delivery Service

Mr. E. William Brach, Director
Spent Fuel Project Office
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Nuclear Material Safety & Safeguards
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852-2738

Subject: Request for Briefing Re: Vulnerability Assessment - GA-4 Legal Weight Spent Fuel Transportation Cask

Dear Mr. Brach:

General Atomics (GA) is in receipt of an unclassified report published recently by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, "*Protecting our Nation Since 9-11-01*," in which the NRC has outlined NRC actions and assessments to protect our nation's nuclear facilities and nuclear infrastructure against terrorist attacks.

As part of those assessments, the report states that the NRC has assessed the safety of spent fuel transportation package designs, including spent fuel truck packages. As you know, GA is the holder of Certificate of Compliance No. 9226 for its high capacity GA-4 Legal Weight Truck Cask for PWR spent nuclear fuel (SNF). This cask is being considered by DOE for truck transport of commercial SNF to Yucca Mountain. We also have developed a twin LWT cask for BWR SNF (GA-9), for which a license application has been docketed. Additionally, GA has developed other casks, such as a Defense High Level Waste LWT cask, and concepts for OWT casks, all of which are candidates for Yucca Mountain transport.

From informal discussions with NRC staff, it is our understanding that GA's licensed GA-4 LWT cask was analyzed as part of the NRC's Vulnerability Assessments (VA) discussed in the above referenced report. Therefore, GA hereby requests a briefing from your staff on the results of the VA performed on the GA-4 cask design.

GA requests that NRC consider giving GA staff a briefing on the results of the VA so that we may better understand the nature of the assessments performed. Receiving the requested briefing at the earliest possible time would allow our engineering staff to consider potential design changes that could be incorporated

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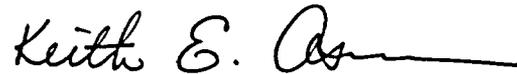
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in future license amendments. Because we have been given to understand that the results of the VAs are considered classified information, the GA staff attending the briefings will have the appropriate security clearances (NRC "L" or DOD "Secret").

We look forward to an affirmative response to this request. We are ready to meet with your staff at NRC Headquarters at a mutually convenient time. If you have questions regarding this request, please contact Dr. Junaid Razvi at (858) 455-3155, or me at (858) 455-2823.

Very truly yours,



Keith E. Asmussen, Ph.D., Director
Licensing, Safety & Nuclear Compliance

jr:kea