

March 11, 2005

Dr. James M. Shuler  
Office of Licensing  
U.S. Department of Energy  
EM-24/CLV-1081  
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20585-2040

SUBJECT: RECEIPT OF APPLICATION - ACKNOWLEDGMENT LETTER

Dear Dr. Shuler:

By letter dated February 28, 2005, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) submitted an application requesting the Nuclear Regulatory Commission certify a new Type B fissile shipping container, the Model No. ES-3100 package.

The DOE requested our review be expedited based on the Model No. ES-3100 will replace DOE's fleet of 6M (non-performance based) specification packages, which will not be authorized for use after October 1, 2008, per regulations 10 CFR 71.20(e) and 49 CFR 173.417(c). The DOE has self-imposed a further restriction specifying terminating use of the 6M specification package on January 1, 2006.

This letter acknowledges receipt of your application and informs you that the application appears to contain the necessary information to begin our technical review. We have established an expedited schedule for the technical review. The schedule allows for the staff to issue a request for additional information (RAI) in July 2005. If no RAI is needed, our recommendation and Safety Evaluation Report may be issued approximately at that time. In general, no changes or supplements to this application should be submitted, except in response to an RAI.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, you may contact me at (301) 415-8500.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Shawn Williams, Project Engineer  
Licensing Section  
Spent Fuel Project Office  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

Docket No. 71-9315  
TAC No. L23818

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 Shawn Williams, Project Engineer  
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