

FROM: Robert C. Pierson, Chief Licensing Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards, NMSS

Original signed by LRoche for:

SUBJECT: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REQUEST FOR COMBUSTION ENGINEERING COMPLIANCE WITH 10 CFR 20.106 **R**

This is in reference to your Technical Assistance Request (TAR) dated July 10, 1995, which was received on September 11, 1995, requesting guidance on whether Combustion Engineering (CE) was authorized pursuant to 10 CFR 20.106, to make shipments of sewage to a sewage treatment plant under the old Part 20. We understand that prior to January 1994, CE routinely made 1-3 shipments of approximately 2,000 - 5,000 gallons of sewage per year from the licensee's sewage treatment plant to one of the treatment plants of the St. Louis Metropolitan Sewer District or Jefferson County Sewer District. The sewage contained water with suspended solids. We further understand that before transferring the effluent, CE took a sample, measured both the suspended solids content and the uranium content, and calculated the uranium concentration in the suspended solids and the total uranium concentration in the sample. The results of the measurements indicated that the total concentrations for uranium were below the concentration limits in Appendix B, Table 11 for insoluble uranium (3×10^{-5} uCi/ml).

Title 10 CFR 20.106 "Radioactivity in Effluents to Unrestricted Areas" allowed the licensee to transfer licensed material "as effluents" to unrestricted areas if the concentrations did not exceed the limits specified in Appendix B, Table 11 of Part 20, averaged over a period of one-year. Title 10 CFR 20.106(c)(2)(ii) clearly indicates that a liquid effluent could contain suspended solids. Accordingly, since the suspended solids contained in the CE sewage was a small percentage of the water content, and the concentration of the uranium was less than the values listed in 10 CFR Part 20 Appendix B, Table 11, CE transfer of the sewage was in compliance with NRC's regulations.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Mike Lamastra of my staff at (301) 415-8139 or me at (301) 415-7190.

Docket 70-36
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