

March 17, 1989
LD-89-030*File Docket 70-0036*Docket No. 71-9022
Certificate of Compliance No. 9022

Mr. Charles E. MacDonald, Chief
Transportation Branch
Division of Safeguards and Transportation,
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Attention: Document Control Desk
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Subject: Information Request Regarding Amendment for
Certificate of Compliance No. 9022

Reference: (A) Letter, C. E. MacDonald (NRC), to P. L. McGill
(C-E), dated February 6, 1989
(B) Letter LD-88-107, A. E. Scherer (C-E) to
C. E. MacDonald (NRC), dated September 30, 1988

Dear Mr. MacDonald:

This letter responds to your Reference (A) request for additional information concerning design changes to the CE-250-2 shipping container, described in Reference (B).

Combustion Engineering has reviewed the information request and, considering the limited future use of the CE-250-2 shipping container, we have determined that it would not be beneficial to further pursue the proposed modifications. As such, providing all of the additional information you requested does not seem to be appropriate at this time. Instead, Combustion Engineering proposes to address only the criticality evaluation mentioned in Item 2(a) of Reference (A) and to ultimately terminate the Certificate of Compliance for the CE-250-2 shipping container. To this end, Combustion Engineering has initiated steps which will result in our being able to discontinue use of the CE-250-2 shipping container late in 1989.

R-13

MAR 23 1989

Combustion Engineering requests that the existing Certificate of Compliance No. 9022, Revision 12, remain in effect until all of the necessary approvals have been received which will then allow us to transfer use to our UNC-2901 shipping container. At this time we project that such a transfer could be effected before December 31, 1989. The bases for this request are:

1. Combustion Engineering will perform a criticality analysis to demonstrate the safety of the CE-250-2 shipping container under the extremely conservative accident conditions of concern to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Specifically, the analysis assumptions will include:
 - twice the allowable number of packages in a normal shipping array,
 - inner container and powder cans optimally moderated,
 - optimally interspersed moderation between the inner containers of all packages in shipping array,
 - damaged package diameter used for spacing,
 - evaluate square and triangular pitches for package array, and
 - twelve (12) inch water reflector around the shipping array.
2. Combustion Engineering has submitted an amendment request to certify our UNC-2901 shipping container for shipment of both UO₂ powder and pellets at 5 wt% U₂₃₅. (This submittal is currently under Nuclear Regulatory Commission review.)
3. C-E has initiated the process of purchasing additional UNC-2901 shipping containers in preparation for discontinuing use of the CE-250-2 shipping container.
4. Revitalization of Combustion Engineering's nuclear fuel manufacturing facilities will eliminate the need for us to ship large quantities of UO₂ powder from our Hematite facility to our Windsor facility beginning in the later part of 1989.

The results of the criticality analysis discussed in Item 1 will be submitted to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on or about April 28, 1989. Based on the above actions, Combustion Engineering requests that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission concur with our proposed approach and with our continued use of the CE-250-2 shipping container. Such use would continue until the shipping function provided by the CE-250-2 shipping container can be discontinued or transferred to our UNC-2901 shipping container. At this time, we project that the Certificate of Compliance for the CE-250-2 shipping container could be terminated at the end of 1989.

Mr. Charles E. MacDonald
March 17, 1989

LD-89-030
Page 3

Should you have questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me or Mr. C. M. Molnar of my staff at (203) 285-5205.

Very truly yours,

COMBUSTION ENGINEERING, INC.



A. E. Scherer
Director
Nuclear Licensing

AES:jeb

cc: R. Chappel (NRC)
G. France (NRC-Region III)
D. McCaughey (NRC)
N. Osgood (NRC)
J. Roth (NRC-Region I)