

June 2, 2006

Mr. Robin DeLaBarre
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Office of Nuclear Energy Affairs, Room 3318
Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. DeLaBarre:

Enclosed is an application for a license (IW018) received by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) from AREVA NP, Inc., (AREVA) for the import of Class A and Class C radioactive waste. The waste was generated as a result of the building of a replacement set of spare reactor coolant pump internals for the Surry Nuclear Power Plant which is located in Virginia. The old reactor coolant pump internals were exported to France where they were decontaminated and inspected for their overall condition. This process generated waste products in the form of contaminated protective clothing, rags, and resin byproducts. The AREVA contract called for all waste products to be returned to the Surry Nuclear Power Plant for storage or disposal.

In 2004, two barrels of contaminated waste products were inadvertently shipped from France to AREVA without an NRC import license in violation of NRC import regulations. Although NRC is considering and may address that matter separately, AREVA has included that material in its current request. Thus, the material that has been and will be imported will be in the form of corrosion activation products and mixed fission products, predominantly ^{55}Fe , ^{60}Co , ^{63}Ni and ^{241}Pu . Most of these radioactive contaminants are contained on the resin. The radioactivity on the dry active waste also consists of corrosion activation products typically in the form of contaminated solid particles of metal oxides.

Before taking action on this application, we request your assistance in notifying EURATOM and French Government authorities of the proposed radioactive waste import into the U.S. and obtaining any comments that those authorities might have in the context of the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on Radioactive Waste Management. We also request your views as to whether the subject import will be consistent with the Convention's guidelines. NRC will consult with the States of Virginia (where AREVA and the Surry Plant are

located), Tennessee (where some of the waste is to be processed), and Utah (where some of the waste is likely to be disposed).

Sincerely,

/RA by Janice E. Owens for/

Stephen Dembek, Section Chief
Export Controls and International Organizations
Office of International Programs

Enclosure:
Appl. Dtd. May 1, 2006
IW018 - France
Docket Number 11005628

cc w/enclosure:
M. Doane, OIP
P. Tana, NSIR
R. Goorevich, DOE
S. Oehlbert, DOE
T. Delorm, DOE

EURATOM
J. Fedrigo, DOD
S. Clagett, DOC
M. Romano, NAC/NMMS

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* See previous concurrence

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OFFICE	OIP	OIP	SC:OIP
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DATE	5/30/06	6/2/06	6/2/06

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