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December 5, 2000

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Ms. Gloria Bennington
Division of Safeguards and Transportation
Mailstop: O-13 D-13
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852-2738

Ref: Route Approval

Dear Ms. Bennington:

We hereby request that your office provide us with a route approval for the transport of irradiated fuel from the Naval Weapons Station Charleston, SC to U.S. Department of Energy, Savannah River Site, Aiken, SC. The route plan request is based upon guidelines contained in NUREG-0561 Section 2.8.

a. Cargo Description

- 1) radioactive material, fissile, n.o.s. /7/ UN 2918; test and research reactor irradiated fuel.
- 2) TN 7/2: 64 and 45 element capacity
NAC-LWT: 42 element capacity
GNS-11: 33 element capacity
GNS-16: 33 element capacity
GE 2000: 42 element capacity
JMS-87Y-18.5T: 30 element capacity
JRC-80Y-20T: 40 element capacity
- 3) Each cask will be loaded in 20 foot container, not to exceed 60,000 lbs.

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b. Anticipated Schedule

- 1) Shipments will originate from multiple foreign locations, be discharged at the Naval Weapons Station Charleston, SC (Weapons Station) and be transported by rail to DOE, Savannah River Site, Aiken, SC.
- 2) The approximate transit time between the Weapons Station and Aiken, SC is estimated to be 10 hrs.
- 3) Shipments are expected to begin about January, 2001.

c. Route Information

- 1) The shipment is scheduled to go from Naval Weapons Station Charleston, SC, to U.S. Department of Energy, Savannah River Site, Aiken, SC.
- 2-4) Proposed route between Naval Weapons Station and Savannah River Site.

<u>Route</u>	<u>No. of Miles</u>	<u>Estimated Travel Time</u>
Weapons Station to CSX	10	30 Min.
Rhet Rd to Ashley Jct.	2	10 Min.
Ashley Jct. to Lane	47	81 Min.
Lane to Columbia	85	146 Min.
Columbia to Laurens	78	134 Min.
Laurens to Greenwood	28	48 Min.
Greenwood to Augusta	68	117 Min.
Augusta to Robins	28	48 Min.
Robins to Dunbarton	9	17 Min.
Dunbarton to Savannah River Site	8	14 Min.
	Subtotal	363 Miles
		645 Min.
	TOTALS	363 Miles
		10.75 hours.*

* The total hours of estimated travel time does not include time for crew changes or sitings at any of the above listed points.

- 5) No planned rest or stopover points other than for crew changes.

- 6) The following cities which would be traversed on the proposed route are heavily populated areas:
Columbia, SC
Augusta, GA
- d. Physical Protection Arrangements Planned for Heavily Populated Areas on Route:
- 1) Escorts will be comprised of armed local law enforcement agency personnel for rail and port security. These armed escorts will accompany the shipments from the Weapons Station to the Savannah River Site.
 - 2) Local law enforcement agency firearms will be as required by 10 CFR Part 73.
 - 3) The communications center will be operated by:
 - US DOE's Emergency Communications Center at the Savannah River Site
 - 4) We anticipate having the following communications capabilities on the rail personnel car for all shipments:
 - Qualcomm Satellite Tracking System (Digital)
 - Radiotelephone
 - cellular telephone

Please let us know if you require additional information concerning our application for route approval.

Regards,



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