

Project S-16
Docket 70-58

1-12-61

Lyall Johnson, Assistant Director
Facilities and Materials Licensing

Clifford K. Beck, Assistant Director
Nuclear Facilities Safety

THE MARTIN COMPANY - December 1, 1960 - Docket 70-58

Please refer to your December 5, 1960 memorandum, forwarding the subject application for review.

The Martin Company wishes to convert several munitions bunker cells into special nuclear material storage vaults. The new area has already been approved for this purpose by the New York Operations Office, and we have no objection to this site.

However, we wish clarification of several phases of the Martin application, as follow:

1. The application merely states that up to 75 kg of contained U-235 will be stored in each of three bunkers, and in accordance with safety guides and regulations. However, in order to complete our evaluation, we must have detailed information on the nuclear material to be stored, to include quantity, physical description, storage geometry, moderator content, etc. The applicant must further demonstrate the critical safety of such materials, as regards both the individual units and the storage arrays of such units, by specific references to reliable data, nuclear safety guides, or by calculation.

2. Martin states that a radiation alarm system will not be installed in the proposed vault area, in view of remoteness of location, shield properties, and other considerations. From examination of a photograph of the facility, it is evident that the bunkers are vented and are located adjacent to a populated area and a waterway. For both the safety of the community and personnel who may be within the bunkers, we feel that detection chambers should be placed within each of the bunkers and connected to an alarm system.

3. In addition to the bunker-vault storage area, Martin proposes an outdoor, fence-enclosed concrete storage pad for scrap nuclear materials. A sketch of this area shows it to be within 15 to 20 feet of a public road. Martin merely states that it wishes to store up to 100 kg of U-235 scrap in 55-gallon drums, in accordance with safety guides and regulations. Again,

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we would wish to have complete description of and justification for the specific storage pattern contemplated. Such justification should also consider the danger of accidental moderation due to outdoor storage and consequences of an inadvertent criticality in proximity to a public thoroughfare.

Upon receipt of information as indicated above, we will resume our study of this application. The docket is returned with this memorandum.

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