

D860513

Honorable Nunzio J. Palladino
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Dr. Palladino:

SUBJECT: ACRS COMMENTS ON SALVAGING OF CONTAMINATED SMELTED ALLOYS

During its 313th meeting, May 8-10, 1986, the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards reviewed the recent Commission actions relative to the Department of Energy (DOE) request for an exemption to permit salvaging of contaminated smelted alloys. We also reviewed the questions raised by Commissioner Bernthal on this matter. Supporting the Committee in its deliberations were the discussions held by our Waste Management Subcommittee on April 24, 1986.

In our opinion, the question of the release of contaminated materials from enrichment plants is but a small part of a larger generic question concerning the disposition of a wide range of related materials. Included in the latter would be metals and equipment resulting from the decontamination and decommissioning of nuclear power plants. For these reasons, and because of the lack of definitive data supporting the DOE application, we concur with and fully support the Commission in denying the DOE request.

We also concur with Commissioner Bernthal that a full range of alternatives for disposition of the alloys was not considered, especially those that could ensure definite barriers to the use of unacceptably contaminated alloys in commerce. We fully support your plan to assist in the development of an integrated Federal policy which would establish consistent guidelines for dealing not only with the general issues associated with contaminated smelted alloys, but also with the issues associated with materials resulting from the decontamination and decommissioning of nuclear facilities as well as the recycling and reuse of decontaminated lands, materials and equipment.

We plan to be involved with and to report to you periodically as the work of the NRC Staff on these matters progresses.

Sincerely,

David A. Ward
Chairman

References:

Memorandum for R. F. Fraley, Executive Director, ACRS, from R. B. Minogue, Director, Office of NRR, Subject: Implementation of Commission Action: Denial of DOE Request for Exemption to Permit Salvaging

Contaminated Smelted Alloys (with Attachments), dated March 17, 1986
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