

ACC



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

September 21, 1979

MEMORANDUM TO: The File
FROM: R. Neal Moore, Senior Licensing Reviewer
Office of International Programs
SUBJECT: STAFF FINDINGS RELATED TO THE PROPOSED IMPORT OF 1,300
KILOGRAMS URANIUM ENRICHED TO 3.3% FROM FRANCE-ISNM79011

Westinghouse Electric Corporation submitted an application dated August 16, 1979 for a license authorizing the import of 1,300 kilograms of uranium enriched to 3.3% U-235, as UF₆, from France.

The material will be shipped to the Westinghouse facility located in Columbia, South Carolina in type 30A UF₆ (USA/9091/B()F) specification cylinders for use in Westinghouse nuclear power plants.

Thousands of tons of normal and slightly enriched UF₆ are transported within the U.S. annually and this practice has been going on for many years without a significant incident. This proposed import represents an extremely small percentage of the total UF₆ transported each year in the U.S. and would not result in any significant change in the probability of a potential accident involving UF₆.

The hazards relating to the possible rupture of these containers are limited principally to chemical toxicity and can be handled safely in essentially the same manner as any other corrosive and/or toxic chemical.

The radiological impacts from import shipments were further evaluated in the Final Environmental Statement of the Transportation of Radioactive Material by Air and other Modes, NUREG-0170, and were determined to be negligible compared to impacts from domestic shipments.

The proposed import conforms with the standard provisions that have governed shipments of low-enriched UF₆ for many years with no significant impact on the environment or the general public. The staff finds this importation will not be inimical to the common defense and security or constitute an undue risk to public health, safety, or to the environment.

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Copies to PDR and ACC 9/21/79

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