



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

JUL 23 1979

SGPL:DJK
ISNM-1698

Transnuclear, Inc.
ATTN: Mr. John Mangusi
General Manager, Operations
1 North Broadway
White Plains, New York 10601

Gentlemen:

This is in regard to your request for approval of a route to be used for imports of irradiated MTR fuel as contained in your letters of July 13, 1979 and July 20, 1979.

The proposed port of entry, Portsmouth, Virginia, is defined as a heavily populated area in NUREG-0561 and under 10 CFR 73.37 must be avoided if a practicable alternative is available. In the absence of a completed analysis regarding the impracticability of using a port that is not located in a heavily populated area, a general approval for the use of a route involving transit through Portsmouth can not be granted. However, recognizing the difficulties that have been encountered in finding a suitable carrier that services such ports and the short time that has elapsed since the rule became effective, we have determined that the use of an alternate route is not practicable and therefore, for the present time, your proposal meets regulatory requirements.

Accordingly, we are approving your proposed route on an interim basis. We request that your analysis of alternatives or a proposal to use a port that is not located in a heavily populated area be submitted to the NRC by August 31, 1979. This approval does not relieve you of the notification requirements of 10 CFR Part 73.72 for each individual shipment.

Please note that the initial arrangements with local police along the route, as required by §73.37(a)(2), have been completed for you by the NRC staff. Data relating to these arrangements and a copy of the approved route overview was sent under separate cover on July 5, 1979. This information is to be incorporated into your shipment plan and provided to carriers along with instructions regarding its use.

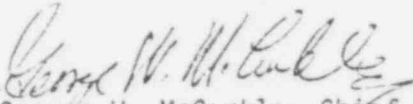
Since your proposal contains information of a type specified in 10 CFR Part 2.790(d), it is deemed to be commercial or financial information within the meaning of 10 CFR Part 9.5(a)(4) and shall be subject to

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disclosure only in accordance with the provisions of 10 CFR Part 9.12. For the same reason the enclosure to our July 5, 1979 letter is also being withheld.

Sincerely,


George W. McCorkle, Chief
Physical Security Licensing Branch