



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

Comm
CORR

OFFICE OF THE
CHAIRMAN

July 12, 1979

The Honorable Cecil Heftel
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Heftel:

Thank you for your correspondence of June 6, 1979 concerning NRC cooperation with the Coast Guard in monitoring the visit of the Pacific Fisher to Hawaii, and your comments with respect to protection of transient shipments of spent fuel.

The NRC is currently pursuing two rulemaking activities which may be relevant to your concerns for protection of transient spent fuel shipments. One of these is the recently published interim rule governing truck and rail shipments of spent fuel (10 CFR §73.37, 44 Fed Reg 34466, June 15, 1979) to which you made reference. The other rule, which is now in the draft stage, would establish physical protection requirements for transient shipments of strategic quantities of unirradiated special nuclear materials. Both of these rules are still subject to revision based on further staff analysis and public comments. Your recommendations that the NRC adopt rules governing protection of transient spent fuel shipments by vessel will be carefully considered as we proceed with these rulemaking activities.

If you or your staff require additional information in this regard, please contact Mr. Robert F. Burnett, Director, Division of Safeguards, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555, (301) 427-4033.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. M. Herdrie".

Joseph M. Herdrie
Chairman

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