

POOR ORIGINAL



August 9, 1979

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New Columbia, PA 17856

U. S. Regulatory Commission
Secretary of the Commission
Washington, DC 20555

LETTER NUMBER
PROPOSED RULE FR-73 (44 FR 34466) ⁽²³⁾

Gentlemen:

It is my understanding that the NRC has passed new rules, effective July 16, 1979, for the protection of spent fuel shipments from sabotage. The new rules require:

1. NRC approval of any route used for shipping spent fuel
2. Advance notification to the NRC of each individual shipment
3. Shipments shall not be made through "heavily populated areas", unless no alternative route is available
4. Shipments which must pass through a "heavily populated area" will be accompanied by an armed escort
5. Each shipment to be accompanied by at least one escort, not necessarily armed
6. Two-way radio contact with a central location and reports every two hours.

I also understand that public comment on these rules has been solicited and I therefore make the following suggestions on improving the rules:

1. Require notification of each shipment to all local authorities involved along route as well as NRC
2. Require publication of proposed routes in Federal Register and allow for public comment before the route can be approved
3. Include a provision for holding local public hearings prior to route approval, if requested by citizens or governments along the route of shipment
4. Require the shipper to prepare and submit to the NRC for approval emergency response plans for incidents which may occur en route
5. Require the shipper to have someone trained to handle any such incidents ride along entire route
6. Embargo all shipments of domestic spent fuel until such time as they can be directly shipped to a demonstrated permanent and safe disposal site
7. Shut down all nuclear power plants, therefore, these dangerous wastes would not be created and there would no longer exist the necessity to pollute the earth with them.

Sincerely,

RICHARD D. THOMAS

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Acknowledged by card... 8/21/79...

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