

Westinghouse
Electric Corporation

Water Reactor
Divisions



70-1819

PDR

Nuclear Service Division

Box 2728
Pittsburgh Pennsylvania 15230

WRD-LS&S-822
September 7, 1979

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Nuclear Material Safety & Safeguards
Washington, D.C. 20555

Attention: Mr. C. E. MacDonald, Chief, Transportation Branch

Dear Mr. MacDonald:

Subject: Shipment of Plutonium

The Westinghouse Electric Corporation hereby requests an official NRC interpretation of 10 CFR Part 71 regarding DOE shipments of plutonium.

Westinghouse currently has possession of plutonium powder, which is owned by the DOE, at the Cheswick, PA, facility. The DOE has requested that this material be shipped by September 17, 1979. At this time, the only NRC approved container for shipment of this material is the FL-10, Docket No. 71-9009. As sufficient quantities of these containers are not available to accommodate shipment of the material by the requested date, DOE has suggested that they accept responsibility of the shipment at the Cheswick Site and use 6M containers for the shipment.

Westinghouse is aware of recent meetings between NRC and DOE regarding shipment of radioactive materials that resulted in some agreement between the two agencies. As we have received DOE's viewpoint of the agreement, please advise whether the NRC's understanding of the situation would permit such a shipment from the Cheswick facility.

It is extremely urgent that we receive an official response to this inquiry as soon as possible so that we may proceed accordingly.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

Very truly yours,

WESTINGHOUSE ELECTRIC CORPORATION

Ronald P. DiPiazza

Ronald P. DiPiazza, Manager
NES License Administration

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