

TELEFAX

DOCKET NUMBER

PROPOSED RULE

PR-71(44FR48235)

22

Date: December 18, 1979

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

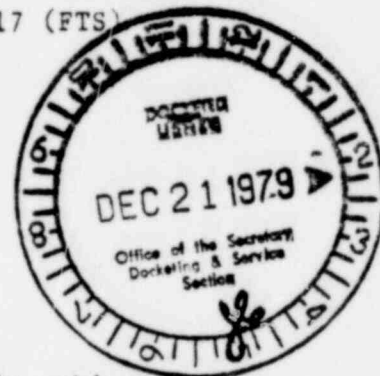
FAX (Rapidfax):  
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VERIFY:  
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Attn: Docketing and Service Branch

*A.A. Trujillo* for

From: R. B. Pope (FTS 475-5445)  
Division 4552  
Sandia Laboratories  
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The following comments are provided relative to the proposed rule making on transportation of radioactive materials published in the Federal Register, August 17, 1979. These comments address technical inconsistencies which should be addressed, and other areas where further clarification or improvements might be considered. These comments are provided following a telephone conversation between D. R. Hopkins, USNRC, and R. B. Pope and A. A. Trujillo, Sandia, on December 14, 1979.

- 1) The provision in 71.36 requiring double containment of shipments containing more than 20 curies of plutonium includes exemptions for some forms, the last exemption being other solids as determined by the Commission. Would it be possible to include specifically "plutonium contaminated solid waste materials", or at least include in the regulations the guidelines upon which the Commission will base its determination?
- 2) In 71.54(b)(iii) and (iv), the conjunction "or" implies that only one of the conditions (i), (ii), (iii) or (iv) need be met. The SS No. 6 does not have the "or", and therefore indicates all conditions must be met.
- 3) In Appendix A, a temperature of  $-29^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $-29^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) is shown. This is inconsistent since  $-29^{\circ}\text{F}$  equals  $-33.6^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
- 4) It is noted that, in some cases, the definitions provided do not coincide with those given in IAEA Safety Series No. 6. Since the US has participated so actively in the development of these international regulations, consideration should be given to having the definitions follow SS No. 6 as closely as possible.
- 5) The term "Hypothetical Accident Conditions", Appendix B, is not used in SS No. 6, and is misleading to the public. Consideration might be given to changing the wording to more accurately reflect what these conditions represent.

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Acknowledged by card.....

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