

JAN 29 1980

FCTC:RHO
71-9122

Chem-Nuclear Systems, Inc.
ATTN: Mr. Louis E. Reynolds
P.O. Box 1866
Bellevue, WA 98009

Gentlemen:

It has come to our attention that you may have an unreviewed safety problem with regard to the Model No. 18-450 packaging, Certificate of Compliance No. 9122.

On April 26, 1979, Virginia Electric and Power Company used Chem-Nuclear Systems', Inc. Model No. 18-450 packaging to ship ion-exchange demineralizers from the Surry facility to a burial site. Although the demineralizers contained less than Type A quantities of radioactive material, the licensee elected to use a NRC approved container to take advantage of the shielding the packaging provided. The Certificate of Compliance (No. 9122) limits the contents to 8,000 pounds. A review of the shipping records by a Region II inspector revealed that the contents of the April 26, 1979, shipment weighed 9,800 pounds or 1,800 pounds in excess of the certificate weight limit.

The use of packaging for weights in excess of those authorized could result in possible structural damage to packaging design approved by the Commission. Therefore, provide additional information within 30 days justifying a higher weight limit for the packaging. This information should be provided in the form of revised pages to the safety analysis report for the packaging and include a licensing fee for an amendment to the certificate.

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Please identify all shipments for which Certificate of Compliance No. 9122 was applicable since April 26, 1979. Also, identify any shipments in excess of 9,800 pounds (contents) which have been made at any time in the packaging.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by
CHARLES E. MACDONALD

Charles E. MacDonald, Chief
Transportation Certification Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle and
Material Safety

cc: Virginia Electric and Power Company
ATTN: Mr. W. L. Proffitt
P.O. Box 26666
Richmond, VA 23261

bcc: L. B. Higginbotham, IE
J. T. Sutherland, IE, RII