## GENERAL 3 ELECTRIC

71-0170 NUCLEAR ENERGY ENGINEERING

GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY, P.O. BCX 460, PLEASANTON, CALIFORNIA 94566

DIVISION

July 8, 1980

Charles E. MacDonald, Chief Transportation Certification Branch Division of Fuel Cycle and Material Safety U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington, D.C. 20555

- Ref: (1) Quality Assurance Program for Shipping Packages of Radioactive Material, QAP-1, Rev. 1, March, 1980.
  - (2) Quality Assurance Program Approval No. 0170, Rev. 0, 4/30/80.

Dear Mr. MacDonald:

On April 30, 1980, your office issued Quality Assurance Program Approval No. 0170, Rev. 0 (Ref. 1), which approved the Vallecitos Nuclear Center (VNC) quality assurance program QAP-1, Rev. 1 (Ref. 2). The approval requires VNC to follow the provisions of QAP-1 beginning August 1, 1980.

Unfortunately, due to the current shutdown status of the General Electric Test Reactor (GETR) and the corresponding reduction in site activities, VNC has experienced a significant reduction in engineering and operating personnel. This has, in turn, made it impossible to generate the procedures necessary for the implementation of the new program by the August 1 date.

Accordingly, VNC requests that the implementation date of Approval No. 0170 be extended to October 1, 1980, and that VNC be permitted to operate under its current quality assurance program until that date. Please note that our problam is one of procedure generation rather than implementation of the procedures once they are established.

In addition, VNC will make no modifications to existing containers or fabricate any new containers for which QAP-1 is applicable after August 1, 1980, until applicable portions of the approved QAP-1 are fully implemented.

If you or your staff have any questions concerning this request, please contact my office. Thank you.

Sincerely,

G. E. Cunningham

Sr. Licensing Engineer

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