

IMMEDIATE ACTION LETTER



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION III
799 ROOSEVELT ROAD
GLEN ELLYN, ILLINOIS 60137

SEP 3 1980

Hutzel Hospital
ATTN: Frank Iacobelli
President
432 East Hancock Avenue
Detroit, Michigan 48201

License No. 21-03001-01

Gentlemen:

This refers to the telephone conversation between you and Mr. A. B. Davis of this office on September 3, 1980 regarding packaging and shipment of radioactive waste at Hutzel Hospital and the accuracy of your dose calibrator.

With regard to the packaging and shipment of radioactive waste we understand that you will not ship any radioactive waste until you have taken the following actions:

1. Complete the actions required by IE Bulletin No. 79-19 (enclosed) items 1 through 9.
2. Submit to this office your plan of action and schedule with regard to items 1 through 9.
3. Inspect all radioactive waste shipping containers at your facility to assure compliance with NRC and DOT regulations and the license for the waste collector for the burial site.

With regard to your dose calibrator, we understand you will verify its operability and accuracy by the close of business on September 4, 1980, and that you will have it fully calibrated at your earliest convenience.

If our understanding of the above is not correct, please contact this office by telephone immediately.

Sincerely,

James W. Roy
for James G. Keppler
Director

Enclosure: IE Bulletin 79-19

cc: Central Files
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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

August 10, 1979

IE Bulletin No. 79-19

PACKAGING OF LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE FOR TRANSPORT AND BURIAL

Description of Circumstances:

Low-level radioactive waste is that waste which can be transferred and shipped to one of three waste burial facilities which are located in and licensed by the Agreement States of Nevada, South Carolina, and Washington. On July 10, 1979, the Governors of the three states notified NRC Chairman Hendrie of the serious and repeated disregard for rules governing the shipments of low-level radioactive wastes to these-burial facilities.

Examples of violations of Agreement State, DOT and NRC rules follow:

Improperly packaged uranium fines igniting packaged liquid scintillation vials in combustible waste is believed to have caused a fire and destruction of a truck at the Beatty, Nevada burial facility on May 14, 1979.

On July 2, 1979, three of twelve steel containers shipped to the Beatty burial facility were found to be leaking radioactive material. The material was described on the bill of lading as being a solid inorganic salt (evaporator concentrates solidified with urea formaldehyde) from a reactor facility. The Governor of the State of Nevada ordered the drums to be shipped out of the state and the burial facility was temporarily closed.

On July 30, the first shipment into the reopened Beatty facility contained free liquid in "solid" material. The radioactive contents were sand filters used at an insitu leaching process at a uranium mill.

Forty-three shipments with sixty-three deficiencies were observed during the package inspection program between April 10 and July 5, 1979, by the Agreement State of South Carolina, at the Barnwell, S.C. burial facility. The shipments were from reactor, medical, industrial and military facilities.

On June 28, 1979, the Federal Highway Administration issued a Notice of Violation to a reactor facility for a \$10,000 fine for truck contamination on drums of ISA material and

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Entire document previously
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No. of pages: 6

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Agreement State requirements
safety of the public. The
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have to initiate actions which
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