

William Dirks, Director
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Safety and Safeguards
Washington, D.C. 20555

Sept 7, 1980

Dear Mr. Dirks,

According to Section 301 of Senate Bill 562 which was signed into law by President Carter on June 30, 1980, state governors will receive prior notification of shipments of nuclear waste. This was one provision of many tacked on as amendments to the NRC Authorizations Act of 1980.

At issue are a number of questions:

- 1) What types of waste will be notified to governors?
- 2) Will the notification be made prior to each shipment or in some summary fashion of little use to planners?
- 3) Will the notification allow some state involvement in routing of nuclear waste shipments?
- 4) Will the notification include the time and date of each shipment?
- 5) Will the notification provide any information as to the carrier making the haul?
- 6) Will the governors be mandated to keep this information secret, or will they be able to in turn notify local authorities of the shipments?

Please make sure the NRC promulgates regulations that are effective and contain provisions acceptable to the public interest, such as:

- 1) Governors should be included in the routing decision making process.
- 2) Notification should be made to the governors of shipments of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste from nuclear reactors and transuranic wastes.
- 3) Notifications for shipments of spent fuel should be made to governors immediately prior to the shipment occurring.
- 4) Notification for shipments of low-level wastes from nuclear reactors could be made in a more summary fashion.
- 5) Notification to governors should include the date of shipment, the time the shipment will enter the state's boundaries, the route of shipment, the carrier making the shipment, a description of the vehicle, the points of origin and destination, quantities and nature of the materials shipped, and contact persons in the event of an accident.
- 6) No secrecy restrictions should be placed on the information provided to governors.

Your attention to this important issue is urgently needed now.
Thank you.

Yours truly,

Bonnie Wright

Bonnie Wright
814 Norma
Nacogdoches, Texas 75961

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