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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
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Kansas State University
Department of Nuclear Engineering
ATTN: Dr. P. E. Faw, Director
Nuclear Reactor Facility
Manhattan, Kansas 66502

Gentlemen:

Enclosed is IE Information Notice No. 80-32, "Clarification of Certain Requirements for Exclusive Use Shipments of Radioactive Materials." If you offer for transport or transport radioactive materials, --- including low-level radioactive wastes --- by exclusive-use highway vehicles, you should carefully review the information contained herein.

If you desire additional information regarding this matter, please contact the Director of the appropriate NRC Regional Office as specified in Appendix D, 10 CFR Part 20.

Sincerely,

James H. Snizek, Director
Division of Fuel Facility and Materials
Safety Inspection
Office of Inspection and Enforcement

Enclosures:

1. IE Information Notice No. 80-32
2. Recently Issued IE Information Notices

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UNITED STATES
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OFFICE OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT
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IE Information Notice No. 80-32: CLARIFICATION OF CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS FOR
EXCLUSIVE-USE SHIPMENTS OF RADIOACTIVE
MATERIALS

Background

In mid-1979 the NRC initiated an enhanced program for inspection of shipments of radioactive materials, including, in particular, low level wastes. In conjunction with this effort, civil penalties have been assessed for violation of associated regulatory requirements. IE Bulletins 79-19 and 79-20, "Packaging of Low Level Radioactive Waste for Transport and Burial," issued August 8, 1979 and IE Information Notice 79-21, "Transportation and Commercial Burial of Radioactive Material," issued September 7, 1979, provide background in this regard.

During the past year, this augmented inspection/enforcement program has prompted a number of questions on the proper application of certain regulatory requirements. These questions involve mainly the problems and deficiencies associated with exclusive use highway shipments of low-level radioactive wastes. The purpose of this Notice is to discuss the questions and clarify the applicability of certain requirements.

Application of 49 CFR 173.393(i) and (j)

Numerous questions involve the application of the limits of radiation levels of exclusive use shipments as prescribed in 49 CFR 173.393(j). As stated therein, the regulation reads

(j) Packages for which the radiation dose rate exceeds the limits specified in paragraph (i) of this section, but does not exceed at any time during transportation any of the limits specified in paragraphs (j)(1) through (4) of this section may be transported in a transport vehicle which has been consigned as exclusive use (except aircraft). Specific instructions for maintenance of the exclusive use (sole use) shipment controls must be provided by the shipper to the carrier. Such instructions must be included with the shipping paper information:

- (1) 1,000 millirem per hour at 3 feet from the external surface of the package (closed transport vehicle)
- (2) 200 millirem per hour at 3 feet from the car or vehicle (closed transport vehicle)

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