

RFB MJ

November 17, 1980

Letter to: (See list of addressees attached)

As you know, interim physical protection requirements for spent fuel shipments have been in effect for a number of months. Our experience to date with spent fuel shipments has led us to be concerned that some of these shipments are subjected to unnecessary hazards due to the use of routes other than Interstates and state preferred routes. I would like to reemphasize the NRC's policy (as contained in 10 CFR 73.37 and the accompanying guidance NUREG-0561, Rev. 1) that all spent fuel shipments move in the most expeditious manner possible. The guidance document points out that Interstate highways typically best satisfy the route selection criteria. We recognize that routes designated by state officials as being preferred routes generally meet the same criteria. In a related rulemaking action, the Department of Transportation (DOT) has tentatively established Interstate highways and state preferred routes as appropriate for the transportation of radioactive materials in general. DOT is presently preparing a final rule that would require the use of such routes.

I have asked my staff to attach increased significance to the selection of spent fuel shipment routes that best avoid unnecessary stops and which will meet the new DOT regulations when final. We believe that maximum practicable use of Interstate and state preferred highways best serves this objective. Accordingly, I encourage licensees involved in the transport of spent fuel to take maximum practicable advantage of the use of such highways.

Sincerely,

for RFB/Chapell
 Robert F. Burnett, Director
 Division of Safeguards, NMSS

POOR ORIGINAL

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