

GENERAL ELECTRIC

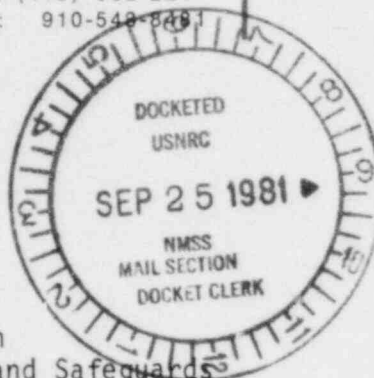
GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY, VALLECITOS NUCLEAR CENTER,
PLEASANTON, CALIFORNIA 94566
PHONE: (415) 862-2211
TWX: 910-548-8481

NUCLEAR ENERGY **PDR**
PROGRAMS DIVISION **Return**

D. CRAMER
396-55

August 31, 1981

Mr. C. E. MacDonald, Chief
Transportation Certification Branch
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C., 20555



Reference: Certificate of Compliance No. 9044, Docket No. 71-9044

Dear Mr. MacDonald:

The General Electric Co., Vallecitos Nuclear Center (VNC), requests that a new permitted contents be added to Certificate of Compliance No. 9044, segmented boron carbide tubes (B_4C).

The B_4C tubes consist of a stainless steel cladding filled with compacted B_4C and are 3/16-inches in diameter by 144 inches in length. Eighty four (84) of the tubes are inserted in each BWR power reactor control blade.

It is necessary to periodically return tubes to VNC for examination in the hot cell facility. Because of the length of the tubes, it is necessary to segment them for shipment in G.E. Model 1600 shielded container. As a result of the segmentation, the clad integrity is lost.

However, the activation of the B_4C material is minimal with most of the activity contained in trace impurities (e.g., Co, Cs). In fact, a maximum load of segmented rods (approximately 84 rods) would contain no more than a Type A quantity of radioactive materials in the B_4C pellets. The activity in the stainless steel cladding would be considerably higher. However, because of its nature, the cladding already meets the requirements of Section 5(b)(1)(vi) of Certificate of Compliance No. 9044.

Sept 81-3

Applicant
Check No.	981597
Amount/Fee	\$150-143
Type of Fee	Administrative
Date Check	9/24/81
Received by	Jackson

Continued.....

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August 31, 1981

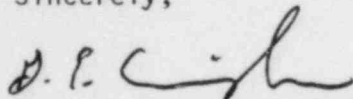
-2-

In view of the degree of safety in transporting a Type A quality of radioactive materials in the compacted B_4C in the Model 1600 and the fact that the stainless steel cladding meets the current requirements for the Model 1600, VNC requests that a new paragraph (5)(b)(1)(vii) be added to Certificate of Compliance No. 9044 to read:

5(b)(1)(vii) Segmented stainless steel tubes containing boron carbide (B_4C) provided the total quantity of activity in the B_4C for each shipment does not exceed a Type A quantity.

A check for \$150.00 is enclosed.

Sincerely,



G. E. Cunningham
Sr. Licensing Engineer

GEC/sg
Enclosure

19702

"TRANSPORTATION APPROVALS"

Docket No. 71-9044

William O. Miller
License Fee Management Branch
Office of Administration

MATERIALS TRANSPORTATION APPROVAL CLASSIFICATION

Applicant: SE
Approval No: 9044 Fee Category 11B
Application Dated: 8/31/81 Received: 9/24/81
Applicant's Classification: ~~11B~~ Administrative

The above application for amendment has been reviewed by the NMSS Transportation Branch, in accordance with Section 170.31, and is classified as follows:

1. Amendments to Approvals in Fee Categories 11A through 11E

- (a) ☐ Major
(b) ☐ Minor
(c) ☒ Administrative

2. Justification for reclassification: _____

3. The application was filed (a) ☐ pursuant to written NRC request and the amendment is being issued for the convenience of the Commission, or (b) ☐ Other (State reason): _____

Signature: R H Olgarden
Transportation Branch, NMSS
Date: 9/24/81