

JAN 8 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR: John A. Grobe, Chief
 Nuclear Materials Safety Branch
 Division of Radiation Safety
 and Safeguards, Region III

FROM: George H. Bidinger, Section Leader
 Uranium Fuel Section
 Fuel Cycle Safety Branch
 Division of Industrial and
 Medical Nuclear Safety, NMSS

SUBJECT: TRANSPORT OF CONTAMINATED INDIVIDUAL BY
 JOACHIM-PLATTIN AMBULANCE, FESTUS, MISSOURI

On December 26, 1990, Mr. David McFarland of Joachim-Plattin Ambulance District, Festus, Missouri, called the Office of the Executive Director for Operations (EDO), expressing concern about transporting a Combustion Engineering-Hematite (CE-H) worker who may have been contaminated with radioactive material. A detailed telephone conversation recorded by George Pangburn, EDO, is enclosed.

On December 28, 1990, I called Mr. McFarland to discuss his concerns. He seemed to accept my explanation of the hazards associated with low-enriched uranium and how his people could remove contamination by washing their skin and clothing. I informed Mr. McFarland that we expected CE-H to provide this information to him and his people and we would encourage CE to do so. I also stated that our inspectors could meet with him, if he was available, during a routine inspection. He quickly accepted this offer. I also told him that we will urge CE-H to provide radiation safety training for his ambulance service personnel.

Accordingly, you are requested to discuss this training issue with CE-H, perhaps at your January 8, 1991, meeting with them and to review the issue with Mr. McFarland during a future inspection. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Original Signed By: Aman Datta for
 George H. Bidinger, Section Leader
 Uranium Fuel Section
 Fuel Cycle Safety Branch
 Division of Industrial and
 Medical Nuclear Safety, NMSS

Enclosure: Telephone conversation record 12/26/90

cc: R. Caniano, RIII

Distribution w/encl.

Docket 70-36	PDR	NRC File Center	IMUF R/F
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Telephone Record

12/24/90

11:00

Caller: David McFarland
Administrator
Joachim Plattin Ambulance District
619 Collins Drive
Festus, MO 63028
314-937-2224

Mr. McFarland called with concerns arising from last week's incident at CE-Hematite. His ambulance service responded to a call from the facility to transport an injured worker to a local hospital. Subsequent to the response, his drivers expressed some concern about handling and transporting individuals who are injured and who are or may be contaminated with radioactive material. In this case the injured worker was accompanied by a licensee person who had a Geiger counter (or similar instrument) in her possession which rightly or wrongly led to the workers concern.

Mr. McFarland has since reevaluated their policy and said to me that they will provide service to the CE facility, but if injured workers are believed to be contaminated, they will not pick them up. What he is looking for is some assurance that his people will be adequately protected in providing service to this facility. I told him my initial sense of the radioactive hazard posed by the type of material produced by CE was that it was fairly low, but that I would have a more technically knowledgeable person contact him.