



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

JAN 14 1991

DOCKET NO: 70-3051

LICENSEE: Transnuclear, Inc (TN)
Aiken, South Carolina

SUBJECT: SAFETY EVALUATION REPORT, APPLICATION DATED NOVEMBER 19, 1990,
RE EXEMPTION FROM DECOMMISSIONING FINANCIAL ASSURANCE
REQUIREMENT AND CHANGE OF CORPORATE ADDRESS

Background

By letter dated November 19, 1990, Transnuclear has requested exemption from the 10 CFR 70.25 requirement of providing a decommissioning financial assurance document. TN is currently authorized to receive, possess, store, and transfer, but not process, special nuclear material in the form of heels in 2 1/2-ton, Model 30B, UF₆ cylinders.

Discussion

Financial assurance for decommissioning is required by 10 CFR 70.25 of licensees who possess more than a specified quantity of unsealed licensed material. Transnuclear requests that the Model 30B cylinder be considered a sealed container so that decommissioning financial assurance is not required. The cylinder is equipped with a valve which can be opened. The staff does not agree with the licensee that the cylinders with valves meet the definition of sealed material. The staff does, however, note that the Department of Transportation (DOT) regulations contained in 49 CFR 173.417 permit DOT Specification 7A Type A packaging for the transportation of residual heels of enriched, solid UF₆ without a protective overpack, subject to the limitations on enrichment and heel weight, and the Model 30B cylinders shipped to TN will of necessity have complied with those regulations. It is, furthermore, the judgement of the staff that transportation exposes these cylinders to greater potential for damage than does storage and handling at the premises of TN. The valve at one end of the 30B cylinder is protected by a shield, capable of withstanding the moderate forces of transit and handling. The material within will be in solid form under the conditions of storage. The risk of accidental release of the material is thus minimal.

Accordingly, the staff recommends the following additional license condition:

19. The licensee is hereby exempted from the requirement of 10 CFR 70.25(c) for the submission of financial assurance for decommissioning, insofar as this requirement applies to the materials possessed under this license.

In addition, Condition 2 is amended as follows to reflect the licensee's new corporate address:

Two Skyline Drive
Hawthorne, New York 10532-2120

Conclusion/Recommendation

In view of the above considerations, the staff determines that waiver of the 10 CFR 70.25(c) requirement of decommissioning financial assurance in this particular case will not result in endangerment of life or property and is otherwise in the public interest. The staff recommends that the licensee be granted an exemption from the said requirement in accordance with the provisions of 10 CFR 70.14.

Region II Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards staff have no objection to the amendment.

Original Signed By:

Amar Datta
Uranium Fuel Section
Fuel Cycle Safety Branch
Division of Industrial and
Medical Nuclear Safety, NMSS

Original Signed By:

Approved by: _____
George H. Bidinger, Section Leader

AD/703051 TRANSNUCLEAR SER

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