



# CABINET FOR HEALTH SERVICES

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
FRANKFORT 40621-0001

DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

January 13, 1996

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21 AM 9:00  
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Paul Lohaus, Deputy Director  
Office of State Programs  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Re: December 17, 1996 Letter to Aubrey V. Godwin Regarding Engine parts  
Containing Nickel-Thoria Alloy.

Dear Mr. Lohaus:

The Radiation Control Program is very concerned about NRC's position and answers to Mr. Godwin's questions regarding the disposition of engine parts containing thorium. NRC's position is unacceptable because of an on-going incident in Kentucky involving the U.S. Department of Army and contamination resulting from thorium engine parts.

The Radiation Control Program has been attempting to resolve an incident related to the improper disposal by the U.S. Department of Army of an engine part containing thorium since April of 1996. The incident resulted in the contamination of the Bluegrass Recycling Facility with thorium and has prevented the owner from using his equipment. Radiation Control Program staff have been in contact with NRC Region II staff since the initiation of the incident. NRC Region II Office has been provided all the data and information as related to this incident; however, to date neither the Radiation Control Program or NRC Region II Office has been successful in convincing the U.S. Department of Army to decontaminate the facility. In addition, the Radiation Control Program has been in contact with Region IV of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regarding this incident.

Because of our ongoing difficulties in dealing with the disposition of contamination from a thorium engine part, the Radiation Control Program finds it difficult to support NRC's position on the disposition of these material. The disposition of exempt or licensed material cannot be conducted with a broad sweep of the brush and consideration must be given to preventing material from entering the recycle arena.

If you have questions regarding our position, feel free to contact us a (502) 564-3700.

Sincerely,

John A. Volpe, Manager  
Radiation Control

c: Vicki Jeffs  
Richard L. Woodruff, NRC Region II  
Paul Wagner, USEPA, Region IV

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PDR STPRG ESGKY  
PDR

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
**CABINET FOR HEALTH SERVICES**  
DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH  
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RADIATION CONTROL BRANCH



REGISTERED  
MAIL  
CLASS

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