



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

PDR

December 18, 1987

CHAIRMAN

The Honorable John S. Herrington
Secretary of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has recently been requested to review and certify transportation package designs by several program offices within the Department of Energy (DOE). As a result of this increased interest in obtaining NRC certification, the number of applications to be submitted will substantially increase the workload for the NRC package certification staff.

Between now and the end of 1988, we expect DOE to submit 9 new package designs and 5 requests for amendment (see enclosure). The new packages include those needed for shipment of transuranic wastes to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant and for the Naval Reactors Program. DOE program offices have indicated a need for 6 of these 14 applications to be completed by the end of 1988. Currently there are a number of other applications under review by the NRC, including two spent fuel packages for the West Valley Demonstration Project and a Defense High Level Waste package. We also expect that DOE program offices will submit up to 22 applications requesting renewal of package certificates which expire between now and the end of 1988. In addition, at least nine new applications for spent fuel packages will be submitted beginning in 1990 for shipments under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act.

As you know, NRC certification is not required for packages used by DOE in its programs. The DOE has the authority to review and certify its own packaging pursuant to Department of Transportation Regulations (49 CFR Section 173.7(d)), and has established a certification program at DOE headquarters. Nevertheless, the NRC's practice has been to review any package submitted by a DOE program office. However, due to the increased number of DOE applications being submitted, and the limitations on NRC resources, we will not be able to review approximately half of these new applications by your requested schedules.

Therefore, we are requesting that DOE package designs be reviewed and approved through the DOE certification process prior to being submitted to the NRC. Prior DOE review of package design should result in more complete applications being submitted to the NRC

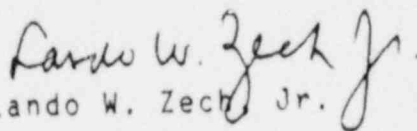
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and the identification and resolution of major design issues. Depending on the thoroughness of DOE's review, the time required for NRC certification could be reduced by 6-8 months. This represents the time required to request, receive and review the first round of additional information from the typical applicant. A major package design usually requires 12-18 months for certification and involves requesting the applicant to provide additional information two to three times. If the DOE provides the documentation sufficiently ahead of the desired DOE completion date NRC will be able to satisfy most of your requested completion schedules.

Because applications are to be submitted by several different program offices within DOE, we request that DOE assign priorities to package applications. This indication of priority, coupled with prior DOE review, will aid us in applying NRC resources to your highest priority cases.

Unless DOE indicates higher priority needs, we plan to assign our highest review priority for DOE package designs to the applications submitted by Naval Reactors. This is because Naval Reactors has had a long standing policy to submit all their package designs for certification by NRC.

Sincerely,


Lando W. Zech, Jr.

Enclosure:
DOE Requests for
Package Certification

DOE REQUESTS FOR PACKAGE CERTIFICATION

1987-1988

DOE PROGRAM OFFICE	PACKAGE	TYPE	SUBMITTAL DATE	REQUESTED COMPLETION DATE
NAVAL REACTORS	D1G CORE BARREL	NEW	MAY 86	OCT 87
	A1W-3 HOLDDOWN/SUPPORT BARREL	NEW	JAN 83	JAN 88
	A1W-3 CORE BARREL	NEW	MAY 83	JAN 88
	S8G/M-130	NEW	JAN 88	JAN 89
	D1G CORE BARREL	NEW	MAY 88	APR 89
	S2C REACTOR COMPARTMENT	NEW	JUL 88	MAR 89
	S6W/S-8213	NEW	JUN 88	JUL 89
	NRBK-41	AMEND	OCT 87	JAN 88
	NRBK-43	AMEND	OCT 87	JAN 88
	DMC/S6W	AMEND	DEC 87	JUN 88
	S7G/M-130	AMEND	APR 88	AUG 88
	ATC/M-130	AMEND	OCT 87	SEP 88
	WAPD-40	AMEND	DEC 87	SEP 88
	D1G	AMEND	JUL 88	MAY 89
	S6W/S-8213	AMEND	JUN 88	JUN 89
	NRBK-41	AMEND	SEPT 87	DEC 87
	M-130	AMEND	SEPT 87	NOV 87
	M-130/S6W-4A	AMEND	SEPT 87	NOV 87
	S3G CBDCA	AMEND	JUL 87	OCT 87
	M-130/D2W	AMEND	JUL 81	JAN 88

NOTES:

1. TABLE DOES NOT INCLUDE RENEWALS.
2. ESTIMATES OF DOE CASEWORK IS FOR 1987-1988 EXCEPT FOR NWPA.
3. CURRENT TO OCTOBER 1, 1987.

DOE REQUESTS FOR PACKAGE CERTIFICATION
1987-1988

DOE PROGRAM OFFICE	PACKAGE	TYPE	SUBMITTAL DATE	REQUESTED COMPLETION DATE
DEFENSE PROGRAMS	88 REMOTE HANDLED TRANSURANIC WASTE	NEW	JUN 88	JUL 89
	NOI REMOTE HANDLED TRANSURANIC WASTE	NEW	MAR 86	JUL 89
	TRUPAC	NEW	FEB 88	JUL 88
	DEFENSE HIGH LEVEL WASTE	NEW	AUG 87	OCT 88
	MH-1A	NEW	OCT 87	JUN 88
	BUSS	NEW	JAN 88	OCT 88
	TPCY	NEW	JAN 88	OCT 88
WEST VALLEY	TN-REG	NEW	SEP 85	OCT 88
	TN-BRP	NEW	SEP 85	OCT 88
NWPA	NUPAC DUAL PURPOSE	NEW	JAN 90	FEB 92
	CE DUAL PURPOSE	NEW	MAR 90	MAR 92
	GA LEGAL WEIGHT TRUCK	NEW	APR 90	MAY 92
	WESTINGHOUSE LEGAL WEIGHT TRUCK	NEW	JUN 90	JUL 92
	NUPAC RAIL	NEW	JAN 91	FEB 93
	B&W RAIL	NEW	OCT 90	OCT 92
	GA OVERWEIGHT TRUCK	NEW	JUN 91	JUL 93
	WESTINGHOUSE OVERWEIGHT TRUCK	NEW	JUL 92	OCT 93
	ANEFCE	NEW	OCT 91	MAR 92
THREE MILE ISLAND	NUPAC 125-B	AMEND	SEPT 87	DEC 87
IDAHO OPERATIONS	ATR	AMEND	MAY 87	OCT 87