



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

acc

MEMORANDUM TO THE FILES

NOV 14 1978

FROM: William Upshaw, Assistant for Policy Review

SUBJECT: STAFF FINDINGS RELATED TO THE PROPOSED IMPORT OF 4400
KILOGRAMS URANIUM CONTAINING 40.04 KILOGRAMS U-235
FROM ITALY (ISNM78021)

On September 19, 1978, Transnuclear, Incorporated filed an application for a license to import 4400 kilograms of uranium containing 40.04 kilograms of U-235 as UF_6 from France. The material will be shipped to the Department of Energy c/o Union Carbide Corporation, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, for use as enriched feed against further products to be reexported to RWE in West Germany under enriching contract UES/EU/29.

The material will be packaged in three I.A.E.A. 4909 Type B packages bearing Certificate of Competent Authority Number USA/4909/B () F. These containers have been used for the shipment of thousands of tons of UF_6 without a significant incident. The hazards associated with the possible rupture of these containers are limited principally to chemical toxicity rather than radiological toxicity and can be handled safely in essentially the same manner as any corrosive and/or toxic chemical. In view of the small percentage of the total UF_6 transported annually in the US, which this import represents, and in view of the history of safe transport of UF_6 , this import will not result in any significant change in the probability of a potential accident and will have no environmental impact over that resulting from domestic transport of UF_6 . The radiological impacts from import shipments were further evaluated in the Final Environmental Statement on the Transportation of Radioactive Material by Air and Other Modes, NUREG-0170, and were determined to be negligible compared to impacts from domestic shipments.

The physical protection requirements of 10 CFR 73 are not applicable because low enriched uranium is specially exempted by paragraph 73.6(a).

The staff has determined that importation of this low enriched material meets statutory requirements, will not be inimical to the common defense and security, will not constitute an unreasonable risk to the health and safety of the public and will involve no significant environmental import.

William Upshaw

William Upshaw, Assistant for Policy Review

7811210203