

# NUCOR-YAMATO STEEL CO.

Post Office Box 1228

Blytheville, Arkansas 72316

Telephone 870/762-5500

Fax 870/762-1130

October 14, 1997

Ms. Brenda Jo Skelton  
Clearance Officer  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
T6F33  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Ms. Skelton,

I am writing you this letter to, in the strongest way possible, protest the decision by the NRS Staff in their response to the NRC-WG recommendations on radioactive scrap. As you know the WG report called for a more stringent licensing and enforcement program for certain types of radioactive sources causing the most problems.

The NRC Staff recommendation to conduct further studies is ABSURD! There is absolutely no need for further studies. It is nothing short of irresponsible for the NRC Staff to recommend this and for the WG report recommendations not to be immediately implemented. This decision is putting at severe risk the health and well-being of thousands of steel mill employees throughout the United States, and billions of dollars in business.

We at Nucor/Nucor-Yamato Steel and I personally have had dozens of cases of 'lost' radioactive sources finding their way into our scrap yards at our steel plants. The only thing that saved us from a disaster was the up hundreds of thousands of very sophisticated detection equipment that we have installed at our facility - but it is not fool proof! I personally was responsible for cleaning up our Utah Melt Shop contaminated by a Cesium 137 source that came from a Nevada ore processing plant that was dismantled. It was a nightmare to deal with. It took over eight days to clean up, 24 hours/day, and millions of dollars. In addition, we lost the eight days of production and could not dispose of the contaminated EAF dust, etc. because it was classified as a low-level mixed waste. If this was to occur here at NYS, the clean- costs and downtime would be magnified threefold because of the size of our plant.

We, as an industry, are held accountable by the countless regulations. Yet we are subjected to near disastrous events because of a poorly regulated and dangerous issue - unaccounted for radioactive sources.

9710220124 971014  
PDR ADOCK 03030835  
C PDR

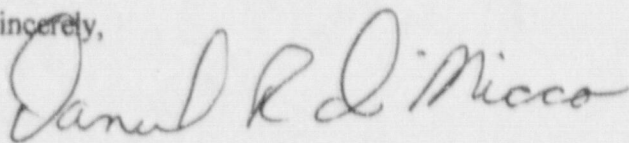


M-13 Srm & Scrap metal

DF0314

We need your help and that of your agency to once and for all deal effectively with this problem.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Daniel R. DiMicco". The signature is fluid and written in dark ink.

Daniel R. DiMicco  
President Nucor-Yamato Steel  
Vice-President Nucor Corporation