

JUN 04 1985

Docket No. 99990081

MEMORANDUM FOR: Thomas T. Martin, Director
Division of Radiation Safety and Safeguards

FROM: James H. Joyner, Chief
Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards Branch
Division of Radiation Safety and Safeguards

SUBJECT: PERIODIC UPDATE OF WEST VALLEY FUEL SHIPMENTS
(MARCH 23, 1985 - MAY 7, 1985 PERIOD)

This is the fourteenth in a series of periodic reports to describe the ongoing NRC Region I oversight of spent fuel shipments from the West Valley site. The following describes the activities of Region I personnel since the last report.

Between March 23 and May 7, 1985, eleven shipments of spent fuel, in a series of about 33, were made from West Valley (WV) to the General Public Utilities (GPU) Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station (OC) located in Forked River, New Jersey.

Region I and Other Activities

- Region based and/or resident inspectors (W. Martin, G. Smith, W. Bateman, J. Wechselberger) inspected each of the shipments upon receipt at O.C. None of the shipments were inspected at W. V. Elevated radiation contamination readings (greater than 22,000 dpm/100 sq. cm) were identified on the cask upon receipt at O.C. on one of the eleven shipments (GPU-14). However, investigation of the efficiency of the smear technique by licensee and NRC personnel indicated that applicable DOT limits were not exceeded.
- Responsibility for the conduct of spent fuel cask inspections at O.C. was transferred by Region I management from region-based personnel to onsite resident inspectors effective with the GPU-20 shipment. Region-based personnel (G. Smith, W. Martin) instructed the resident inspectors on the required survey and safeguards procedures during the receipt inspection for the GPU-18 shipment and observed as the resident inspectors conducted the receipt inspection on the GPU-19 shipment. Region-based personnel are expected to oversee receipt inspections at O.C. on at least two shipments per month.
- A region-based inspector (G. Smith) met with representatives of the New Jersey State Police to review the impact of Interstate Highway (I-287) construction work on the transportation of spent fuel from W.V. to O.C. Alternate routes, developed by the State Police for use if unusual congestion occurs on I-287, were also reviewed. The meeting and route

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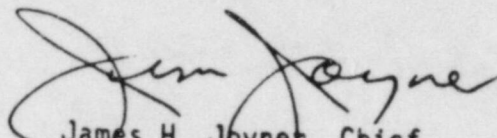
reviews were in response to a concern expressed to Chairman Palladino by Governor Kean of New Jersey in a February 26, 1985 letter.

- During transport of spent fuel shipments GPU-16 and GPU-21, the transport vehicle was detoured from the NRC approved route in New Jersey due to unexpected construction activity and traffic congestion, respectively. The alternate route taken for the GPU-21 shipment was a preplanned detour and had previously been reviewed by the NRC and found to be acceptable. The route taken during the GPU-16 shipment was not a preplanned detour and the detour route had not been previously reviewed by the NRC. New Jersey State Police (NJSP) accompanying GPU-16 made the decision to deviate from the approved route and procedures have been modified to require approval at the NJSP Division level in the event the use of unreviewed routes are necessary in the future.
- During unloading of the spent fuel assemblies in shipment GPU-20, several workers were contaminated while performing venting and filling operations on the TN-9 spent fuel shipping cask prior to movement of the cask into the spent fuel pool. Leakage from a vent fitting at the top of the cask was attributed to a missing "O" ring in the vent fitting assembly. The workers, who were wearing protective clothing but not respirators, evacuated the area and were subsequently decontaminated to less than 100 cpm (RM-14 frisker) by showering. An evaluation of this event indicated that no personnel uptake or exposure regulatory limits were exceeded. (PNQ-I-85-31 was issued on April 30, 1985.) West Valley was advised of this incident but asserted that the "O" ring was present in their vent fitting assembly.
- Upon receipt of shipment GPU-20 at O.C. the licensee observed that one of the positioning pins on the upper impact limiter was bent. An investigation was conducted by the licensee. It was determined that the positioning pin was bent as a result of the cask shifting in the vehicles' trunnion support structure during transport. The cask shifted because shims were not properly positioned on the lower trunnion support structure. A similar problem was identified on Shipment GPU-21 prior to the shipment leaving W.V. The problem was corrected prior to release of the shipment.
- In response to enforcement action initiated concerning shipment GPU-3, O.C. personnel improved the time required to survey the incoming cask for surface contamination. Region-based personnel verified that these surveys are conducted within three hours of receipt of the cask as required.
- As of May 7, 1985, shipments to Oyster Creek are expected to be completed during June, 1985. Failed fuel assemblies will be shipped during June, 1985, after receipt of authorization from the NRC's Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.
- Rochester Gas and Electric (RG&E) has indicated they could begin to receive fuel during July, 1985. Discussions are being held between W.V. and RG&E personnel to facilitate the start of shipping in a timely manner.

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Region I will conduct a survey of the proposed shipping route in early June. NFS is committed to remove fuel owned by NFS from the WV site during August and September, 1985.

- As of May 7, 1985, 70 Oyster Creek, 81 Ginna (RG&E) and 125 NFS spent fuel assemblies remain at the West Valley site. These fuel assemblies will require at least 93 additional shipments from the West Valley site. To date, a total of 166 shipments have been made to CECO, Point Beach and Oyster Creek. These shipments account for the removal of 474 spent fuel assemblies from the West Valley site.



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RESIDENT INSPECTOR NOTES

4/30/85 Sunny, Mild

5 men + fion area on 119' contaminated due to in-advertent leak from TN-9

cyls. Called Monte & Shambaby

Attended 0900 mtg. - plant condition unchanged. Held exit for 85-13.

PN issued on spill event. Mike

Hobert, N.J. Bureau of Rad. Prot.

called to inquire about spill. Also

talked to Ohio HP expert Kent Tostwa

Talked to T. Corre & B. Tilton regards

DDR violation & their subsequent

followup. Rec'd a fax of spill PN

and NRP PASS ext. letter.