

JUL 15 1987

13 Hired 2 7/15
Dms DJS
Ston L

The Honorable Anthony C. Beilenson
Member, United States House of
Representatives
18401 Burbank Boulevard
Tarzana, California 91356

Dear Congressman Beilenson:

We have received your April 15, 1987 letter addressed to Mr. Kammerer, Director of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Office of Congressional Affairs, that forwarded correspondence from Mr. Charles E. Ashbaugh, President of Nuclear Theory and Technologies (NTT). In his letter, Mr. Ashbaugh requested an immediate decision from NRC on NTT's application for a license to distribute gemstones that had been irradiated in a nuclear reactor. Such irradiation may enhance the color and commercial value of these gemstones that are used as adornments. However, the process also induces radioactivity in the gemstones that results in radiation exposure to the public.

The decision on NTT's and one other similar application to distribute gemstones containing radioactivity to members of the public will be precedent-setting. The decision involves a number of technical and policy issues that affect the public health and safety and that extend beyond the applications alone. The staff currently is engaged in the time-consuming activities of gathering and analyzing radiation data about the gemstones that will support the decision. I will ensure that both you and your constituent, Mr. Ashbaugh, are informed promptly as soon as a final decision is reached.

Sincerely,

(Signed) T.A. Stello

Victor Stello, Jr.
Executive Director
for Operations

DISTRIBUTION (PARTIAL RESPONSE: EDO 02817)

FCMA r/f	BClausser	PVacca	WAxelson, RIII ✓
NMSS r/f	NMSS Office r/f	CJenkins	WFisher, RIV
EDC	DMackenzie	JHickey	JMontgomery, RV
EDO r/f	RECunningham	HBerkow, NRR	DNussbaumer, GPA
GPA/CA	FCAB r/f	DMorris (EDO-2817)	VLMiller
STreby, GC	JJoyner, RI	RHauber, IP	WCline, RII

*SEE PREVIOUS CONCURRENCE

OFC: FCAB	:FCAB	:GC	:FCMA	:FCMA	:NMSS	:NMSS	:EDO
NAME: PVacca:bc:VMiller:STreby:GSjoblom:RECunningham:RBernero:HLThompson,Jr:VStello,Jr							
DATE: 7/6/87	:7/7/87	:7/7/87	:7/7/87	:7/7/87	:7/7/87	:7/7/87	:7/7/87

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

8710050357 870930
PDR FOIA
EDWARDS87-500 PDR

FOIA-87-500
A13