



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

May 15, 1979

Honorable Joseph M. Hendrie
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

SUBJECT: ACRS REVIEW OF PROPOSED RULES ON SHIPMENT OF SPENT FUEL

Dear Dr. Hendrie:

The Commission, in a letter dated January 13, 1976, requested the ACRS to comment on proposed rules concerning the packaging and transportation of plutonium and other radioactive materials when and if they should be developed. The ACRS was advised in 1977 by the Office of Standards Development and the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards that the estimated health effects of a radiological release from transport of radioactive materials in non-urban areas were not so substantive as to warrant rule-making action.

A further study by the NRC Staff, relating to transportation of radioactive materials in urban areas, has resulted in the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards proposing that, until a research program is performed, certain interim safeguard measures should be applied to spent fuel shipments. A proposed rule regarding such measures has been sent to the Commission by memorandum of April 18, 1979 (SECY-79-278) for approval.

The ACRS interpreted the Commission's January 13, 1976 request to the ACRS as applying to risk to public health and safety resulting from normal and accident conditions during radioactive material shipments. Since the proposed rule change discussed in SECY-79-278 applies to risks associated with sabotage events, the ACRS is reluctant at this time to divert its attention from other matters of high priority to review and comment on the proposed change; consequently, the ACRS does not intend to review the proposed rule change discussed in SECY-79-278 unless specifically requested to do so by the Commission.

Honorable Joseph M. Hendrie

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In connection with this proposed rule change, the ACRS suggests that the admonition contained in the attached letter to Mr. Gossick is applicable also to this circumstance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Max W. Carbon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Max" and last name "Carbon" clearly distinguishable.

Max W. Carbon
Chairman

Attachment:

[*] Ltr. to Mr. L. V. Gossick, EDO, NRC, from
M. W. Carbon, ACRS Chairman dtd. 3/13/79

[*] See page 3611, Volume VI