

Ms. Claire Holtzapple
U.S. Department of Energy
Oakland Operations Office
1301 Clay Street, 700N
Oakland, CA 94612-5208

SUBJECT: NMMSS REPORT PRODUCTS/HUMAN PERFORMANCE

Dear Ms. Holtzapple:

During November 1999, the NRC requested a TJ-4 report for reporting identification symbol "ZQM" [one of the Nuclear Fuel Services (NFS) symbols.] The report listed the cumulative shipped and received amounts for the various facilities doing business with NFS during the time period of the report. This report indicated a large difference in the amount shipped and received between DOE Portsmouth and NFS. The difference between the values on the report was over 70,000 grams of U_{235} . Because of the large difference and different values listed by the facility, the NRC's inspection staff had to take much longer than anticipated to investigate this area. By review of ledgers and actual DOE/NRC 741 forms, the inspectors concluded NMMSS was in error. The error appears to be related to how the NMMSS program handles issues associated with interim receipts. When contacted, NMMSS personnel promised to address the program issue.

Also, the NRC inspectors were informed by NFS staff that the recent reconciliation efforts with NMMSS staff had taken longer than expected. The delay appears to have been partly caused by advice given by NMMSS personnel to NFS staff.

This is the second time NMMSS reports have not been able to support NRC inspection efforts in the past four months. In August 1999, NMMSS material balance reports requested for a BWXT inspection were in error.

The NRC is becoming increasingly concerned about the validity of NMMSS report products. These products are supposed to be "error-free" by NMMSS. The NMMSS analysts and programmers have always been responsive to NRC requests. But given the anticipated future demands on their time, such as the proposed DOE upgrade, there is even more cause for concern for the accuracy of future NRC requests.

In the current regulatory environment, the NRC needs reliable report products from the national database. During inspections, poor quality NMMSS reports have hindered NRC inspection efforts.

We would greatly appreciate if you would look into these problems and provide us a written reply as to what actions you are planning to take to identify and remedy the problems with the NMMSS database.

Sincerely,

Lidia Roché, Section Chief
International Safeguards Section
Licensing and International
Safeguards Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
and Safeguards, NMMSS

In the current regulatory environment, the NRC needs reliable report products from the national database. During inspections, poor quality NMMSS reports have hindered NRC inspection efforts.

We would greatly appreciate if you would look into these problems and provide us a written reply as to what actions you are planning to take to identify and remedy the problems with the NMMSS database.

Sincerely,

Lidia Roché, Section Chief
 International Safeguards Section
 Licensing and International
 Safeguards Branch
 Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
 and Safeguards, NMMSS

DISTRIBUTION: FILE CENTER LIB r/f NMMSS r/f FCSS r/f
 DUmber, PMDA

G:\lib\nmmss-ltr.wpd

OFFICE	LIB	FCOB	LIB
NAME	BHorn:bv	LHarris	LRoché
DATE	12/ /99	12/ /99	12/ /99