



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

Central Files
(IP-3A)

December 09, 1999

MEMORANDUM TO: John T. Greeves, Director
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguard

FROM: Ronald D. Hauber, Director *R Hauber*
Non-proliferation, Exports and
Multilateral Relations
Office of International Programs

SUBJECT: PROPOSED IMPORT OF RADIOACTIVE DEPLETED URANIUM
TURNINGS; DEPLETED URANIUM CYLINDRICAL PIECES, AND
CONTAMINATED OIL FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM (APPLICATION
NO. IW008)

Attached is an application (IW008) from Starmet CMI (CMI), Barnwell, South Carolina for the import of radioactive depleted uranium and contaminated mineral oil from the United Kingdom. Your advice and assistance in the review of the application would be appreciated.

The depleted uranium material to be imported is the machined swarf/turnings from the manufacture of a component part of ammunition being produced on a Ministry of Defense contract at the Royal Ordnance facility in the United Kingdom. There is also a quantity of solid waste in the form of cylindrical pieces arising from obsolete designs from the development phase of the contract. The swarf/turnings are stored in mineral oil in order to prevent combustion; the oil becomes contaminated and will also require processing by Starmet prior to reuse or disposal.

Starmet advises that they were the original manufacturer/supplier of this depleted uranium material and they have developed a recycling process for recovery/reuse of the materials. The recycling process converts the metal to oxide that is then used in radiation shielding products manufactured by Starmet. CMI advises that they are permitted to receive this material and to perform the necessary recycling under their South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control (SCDHEC) Radioactive Material License Number 322. A copy of the license is attached for review.

Starmet notes that several shipments, with a maximum total quantity of 80,000 kilograms of uranium and 45,000 liters of mineral oil, will be required over the four year period of the MoD

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production contract. The exact quantity of material per shipment cannot be predetermined, as it is dependent on the actual size of the chips, which comprise the machined material, but there will be a maximum of 16,800 kilograms per shipment based on a gross weight of 20,000 kilograms for the ISO container. It is anticipated that shipments will commence in April 2000.

We would appreciate your review of the attached import license application, including the identification of any additional information the applicant should provide to us.

After all necessary information has been provided, we will forward the application to the the State of South Carolina for their review and comments. Steps already taken in regard to public notification and coordination with the Department of State are represented in Attachments 3 and 4.

Attachments:

1. Application IW008 dated August 30, 1999
2. CMI Radioactive Material License 322
3. NRC letter to Department of State dated October 7, 1999
4. Federal Register notice dated December 7, 1999

cc: P. Lohaus, OSP

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