

Jan 17, 2000

001

1952 Palovina Dr.

Appleton, WI

54915

US NRC

Chairman Meserve,

Has the MOX fuel in the Ovalle Project been shipped already? I am concerned about the fact that the shipping container does not appear to be NRC certified. Was it? If so please send a copy of the certificate. My understanding is that the Model 4H Enriched Fuel Bundle Shipping package was "certified" by Canadian transportation authorities in 1978. How has the design changed since then or hasn't it changed at all? Apparently the US DOT accepted this on the basis that it "does not relieve any consignee from compliance with any compliance requirements of any country where it is transported" and "it provides no relief from limitations for transportation of plutonium by air in the US as cited in the regulation of US NRC 10CFR 71.55" (It is not clear from my copy of the EA if this is "air" or "sea" - printing is poor). What are NRC regulations governing this shipping container? Were they fulfilled? How? When?

When I looked at the description of the container I was somewhat appalled. A steel drum with felt lined inner aluminium can? A vermiculite top and bottom "thermal shields"? How does this work? I understand vermiculite expands markedly on being heated. How hot will the vermiculite get? How much will it expand? How hot will the drum get over time? The cushioning material is "urethane foam" made up of what? Is it flammable? Is it water-soluble?

How does it react with heat? (The distilling soap it was used as a fragment, petroleum and formic, a hypoxic - how safe is this material, y. release? y. heater? y. heater?

will MAX fuel if the aluminum container is broken?)

Material interaction is something the NRC was

Let in looking into with the USC-94 and it

Caused on a person at Pt Beach in Cal. Since this

criteria for MAX fuel is Canadian fabricated and

certified in the 70's - has NRC investigated

material interaction possibilities in a transport

accident? y. not, why not? I ask that you

do it now, as there apparently will be more

Shipments.

do NRC oversight given in any way in the

possible part? Can DOE or DOT use any shipping

containers not NRC certified? This is concerning

to me as I thought NRC regulated any shipment

containers for radioactive materials, I am

very interested in this Canadian container which

seems flowing and accident prone to me.

Play word? y. Democrat? What the form?

Fast lined aluminum? Don't sound anything

like spent fuel container for less studying

the certificate document for. I know spent fuel

is former design. But, we know a lot more

about plutonium in 2000 than we did in the 70's.

How much has this container been tested? What

tests were done on it originally? I request that

NRC look carefully at the use of this Canadian container

in the US. I want to know it must be regulated. Town Shillingham

ACTION

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: Fawn Shillinglaw
Appleton, Wisconsin
DUE: 2/29/00
EDO CONTROL: G20000057
DOC DT: 01/17/00
FINAL REPLY:

TO: Chairman Meserve

FOR SIGNATURE OF : ** GRN ** CRC NO: 00-0078

DESC: CERTIFICATION OF SHIPPLING CONTAINERS

ROUTING:
Travers
Paperiello
Miraglia
Norry
Blaha
Burns

DATE: 02/08/00

ASSIGNED TO: NMSS CONTACT: Kane

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

For Appropriate Action.

Assign to: Ross Chappell
→ Susan Shubman
Jae SFPO 2/23

SFPO Action
Due to NMSS Director's Office
by 2/24/00
rec'd 2/9/00

If no action is required,
please e-mail Cathy +
Patty Tressler, EDO with
that indication to close
the action.

