



**UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION II  
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER  
61 FORSYTH STREET SW SUITE 23T85  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931**

February 18, 2000

Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board  
ATTN: Lic. David Bernier, Director  
Legal Affairs Office  
PO Box 11488  
Santurce, Puerto Rico 00910

**SUBJECT : REQUEST FOR INSPECTION SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE**

Dear Mr. Bernier:

This refers to a telephone conversation of February 18, 2000, between you and Mr. J. Díaz Vélez, of this office. During this conversation, Mr. Díaz told you of our need to inspect the use of licensed radioactive materials at the La Vega Service Station located in Barranquitas, Puerto Rico and requested your assistance in completing that inspection.

As discussed by Mr. Díaz, under the provisions of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974, the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has a regulatory mandate to protect the public health and safety, and the environment with respect to the use of radioactive materials in the United States and its territories. The NRC fulfills its responsibilities through licensing and inspecting facilities and activities. We inspect licensees that use nuclear materials at medical, academic, and industrial facilities. Our inspections include the review of operations such as transportation, routine use, emergency response, storage and disposal of licensed materials.

We have identified a State of Florida licensee, Technos, Inc., that will be performing licensed activities under the provisions of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 150 (10 CFR 150). This regulation provides for NRC recognition of Agreement State licensees and permits them to work, on a temporary basis, in areas of NRC jurisdiction. Technos, Inc. will be performing geophysical logging at the Barranquitas site, from February 24 to March 1, 2000. This work will involve the use of licensed, radioactive materials.

We would like to perform a field inspection of Technos' operations at the Barranquitas site to ensure that licensed, radioactive material is being used safely. However, we have learned that Esso Standard Oil Company (Puerto Rico), is remediating the site under the provisions of an order issued by the Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board (Order number OA-99-AG-109). The Order established requirements for gaining access to the site and specifically requires 40-hours of HAZWOPER training pursuant to 29 CFR 1910.120. It will not be possible for our staff to complete a 40-hour HAZWOPER training course and conduct the inspection within the operable timeframe.

We are requesting your support and assistance in completing this inspection. In lieu of the 40-hour training, we propose that a member of your staff accompany our inspector to verify that the inspector remains safe thus ensuring that the intent of your order is satisfied while providing the NRC the access it needs to complete this inspection. If this is possible, please advise us of what personal protection equipment such as hard hat, safety glasses and safety shoes our inspector would be required to have. Alternatively, we would appreciate any other suggestions you may have regarding how we might safely complete our inspection.

We share your commitment to protecting public health and safety, and the environment. Thank you in advance for your assistance and cooperation. If you have any questions, please call Mr. Díaz at (404) 562-4736.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Charles M. Hosey, Deputy Director  
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

cc: Commonwealth of Puerto Rico

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