

March 27, 2002

Mr. Bill Coviello
P.O. Box 524
Newbury, New Hampshire 03255-0524

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE ON A MATTER RELATED TO A FIRE
SUPPRESSION PRODUCT

Dear Mr. Coviello,

I am responding to Senator Smith's letter, dated February 13, 2002. Senator Smith requested that I respond directly to you on your request for assistance on a matter related to a fire suppression product your company (TLI Group, Ltd) had developed.

I understand you are trying to demonstrate the efficacy of a suppressant developed by the TLI Group for uranium fires. It should be noted that the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's regulatory program focuses on a review of licensee plans, procedures, equipment, and facilities that are used to meet the Agency's regulations and licenses that it issues. Accordingly, demonstrations, such as the one you are seeking to provide, if needed to serve a regulatory purpose, would typically take place under the auspices of the licensee that had purchased the fire suppressant for use in the licensee's facility.

I provided you with the name of an individual, Mr. Fred Emerson, who is responsible for fire protection issues at the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI). I understand, based on a discussion with the NEI representative, that names of individuals at the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) were also going to be provided to you. When I discussed this information with you in a telephone conversation on March 14, 2002, you appreciated our response and recognized that NEI and EPRI were the proper venues for helping provide you with an opportunity to demonstrate the efficacy of this fire suppressant. Since that conversation, I have also mentioned your interest in this area to staff from the NRC's Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES), who have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with EPRI on the subject of fire protection. RES staff suggested, as did NEI, that EPRI would be a good contact for your request. The appropriate EPRI contacts are Mr. Gary Vine for the MOU, and Mr. Robert Kassawara for fire safety research.

I trust this reply responds to your query. Should you need additional help, please contact me at 301-415-7238.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Thomas H. Essig, Chief
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Materials Safety
and Safeguards

cc: Senator Smith

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