



*Silicon
Radiation Effects Laboratory*

101 Brick Kiln Road
Building-2, Unit-2
Chelmsford, MA 01824

(978) 455-8737
www.Si-REL.com

Proving Space Technology

May 23, 2012

Mr. Pierre Saverot
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
NMSS/DSFST/LB
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Mr. Saverot,

I am writing you in support of the certificate of compliance (COC) application by J.L. Shepherd and Associates (JLS&A). The COC is for the JLS&A 20WC and the GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy Model 1500 shipping packages.

Si-REL, LLC is a small, owner-operated business, recently incorporated in Massachusetts to provide radiation effects testing of electronics used in radiation environments. Most semiconductor devices and microelectronics manufactured for use in radiation environments must be tested for radiation hardness assurance (RHA). There is an increasing demand for RHA electronics. Correspondingly, there is an increasing demand for radiation test facilities capable of RHA testing.

Si-REL has recently been issued a license for RAM by the Massachusetts Radiation Control Program. The viability of our small start-up business is highly dependent on the ability to procure a self-shielded Cobalt-60 irradiator in the next several months.

We greatly appreciate the tremendous responsibility entrusted in the NRC for protecting the environment and the health and safety of the public from unnecessary radiation exposure. However, when evaluating the COC application by JLSA, please also consider the potential severe economic impacts to multiple businesses if the COC is not issued. Such impacts should be compared to the very low relative risk associated with extending the use of these shipping packages which have been used safely and without incident for many years.

Thank you for taking these comments into consideration and please do not hesitate to contact me to provide anything additional.

Sincerely,

Leo M. Bobek,
Vice-President
Si-REL, LLC