



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

November 23, 1992

The Honorable Ralph Regula
Member, United States House of Representatives
4150 Belden Village Street, NW
Canton, Ohio 44718

Dear Congressman Regula:

This is in response to your letter of October 14, 1992 to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission forwarding a request from Mr. Otis Vestfals of Hartville, Ohio. Mr. Vestfals inquired about a point of contact in the government who might be interested in a piece of nuclear equipment left behind in Latvia by the former Soviet Union.

We have contacted several specialists at our own agency, as well as at the Department of Energy and the National Institute of Standards and Technology. All have indicated that to the best of their knowledge no U.S. government agency was likely to be interested in a gamma radiation source consisting of very short-lived radioisotopes that depended on a small nonpower reactor for on-line activation, as described in the enclosure to Mr. Vestfals' letter.

If Mr. Vestfals wishes to pursue his search further, he could start by contacting the following two individuals outside the government:

Dr. William Vernetson
Director of Nuclear Facilities
102 Nuclear Reactor Building
Department of Nuclear Engineering Sciences
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611

(Dr. Vernetson edits a newsletter with wide circulation in the nuclear community.)

Dr. William Wittemore
General Atomics Co.
San Diego, CA
Tel: (619) 455-3276

These two people might be able to provide additional leads.

I hope that the above information is of use to Mr. Vestfals.

Sincerely,

Dennis K. Rathbun, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

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