



PDR

UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

October 3, 1996

Mr. Paul Leventhal, President  
Nuclear Control Institute  
1000 Connecticut Ave. NW  
Suite 804  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Mr. Leventhal:

I am responding to your letter of August 23, 1996, in which you requested information regarding the transport of used steam generators from the Ginna plant and, specifically, whether discarded steam generators from the nation's nuclear power plants may now be shipped without a package certification issued by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. In fact, Department of Transportation and NRC regulations for the transportation of radioactive materials were recently revised (see 60 FR 50292 and 60 FR 50248), to be compatible with those of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA Safety Series No. 6, 1985 edition). The revisions, which generally became effective April 1, 1996, have changed the regulatory framework under which steam generators are shipped.

When NRC licensees have shipped steam generators in the past, they have been required to obtain an NRC certificate for the steam generator package. In prior NRC certifications, licensees typically proposed to fill the steam generators with low-density concrete, although there was no specific regulatory requirement to do so. Under the new DOT and NRC regulations, NRC certification is generally not required for packages containing low-specific activity material and surface contaminated objects (SCOs). Therefore, if licensees are able to ship steam generators as SCOs, NRC certification will not be required.

The new DOT and NRC regulations require that SCO packages are to be evaluated against DOT requirements. In particular, DOT regulations require that SCOs be packaged for transport in Industrial Packaging. If it can be reasonably demonstrated that the SCO itself as prepared for transport (e.g., a steam generator with weld-sealed enclosures) provides equivalent safety to an Industrial Package, the shipper may request an exemption from DOT. Under DOT regulations (49 CFR Part 107), applications for exemption from DOT requirements are noticed in the Federal Register for public comment. NRC will continue oversight of licensee steam generator transportation since steam generator shipments by licensees are subject to NRC inspection for compliance with the DOT regulations, pursuant to 10 CFR 71.5.

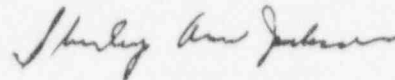
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With respect to the Ginna steam generators, it is our understanding that Rochester Gas and Electric (RG&E) Corporation, the licensee for Ginna Station, has not yet made final plans for shipment of the two original steam generators, which are currently being stored on site. Nevertheless, we expect that RG&E will attempt to qualify the steam generators as SCOs for shipment under DOT regulations without filling them with low-density concrete. Further, it appears that RG&E could, under DOT regulations, request a DOT exemption, provided RG&E can meet DOT criteria.

Since neither the previous nor the revised transportation regulations specifically address shipment of large components, including steam generators, the NRC, in coordination with DOT, is planning to issue guidance to clarify the application of the revised DOT and NRC transportation requirements to the shipment of discarded steam generators. Further, NRC and DOT are also conducting a joint study of large-component transportation issues.

I hope this information will clarify the regulatory requirements governing the possible shipment of the Ginna steam generators. If you have any further questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Shirley Ann Jackson".

Shirley Ann Jackson