

Handwritten: 7-5-60

Handwritten: [Signature]

Dr. Kenneth W. Newman
General Manager
Isotopes Specialties Company
Division of Nuclear Corporation of America
P. O. Box 688
170 West Providencia
Burbank, California

Dear Dr. Newman:

This refers to your letter of May 18, 1960, concerning the Commission's news release announcing the designation of interim land burial sites at Oak Ridge, Tennessee and Idaho Falls, Idaho.

In your letter you urge that the news release be amended to state that only firms providing AEC licensed commercial waste disposal service be allowed to package and ship radioactive wastes to the land burial sites. In support of this request, you assert that licensed waste disposal services have the necessary training, facilities and equipment to properly package waste, and that other AEC licensees may not. You also mention the problems the Commission might have in determining that waste shipped to land burial sites is properly packaged.

It should be pointed out that all AEC licensees by virtue of their licenses are authorized to transfer licensed radioactive materials. It is the view of the Commission that licensees who are qualified by training, experience, facilities, and equipment to use radioactive materials are also qualified to package the wastes resulting from such use. Such transfers, of course, must be made in accordance with existing regulations. The transportation of radioactive materials by land, water and air is covered by the regulations of the Interstate Commerce Commission, United States Coast Guard, Federal Aviation Agency, Atomic Energy Commission and other agencies having appropriate jurisdiction. These regulations are designed to assure that radioactive materials are transported safely and to protect the transportation workers and the public. For example, the regulations establish such requirements as the method of packaging and the type of containers that may be used, the maximum radiation levels from containers, the maximum amount of radioactive material permitted in each container,

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the type of labeling to be used on the containers and vehicles transporting the containers and the securing and bracing of loads within the vehicle to prevent shifting.

In order to ship wastes to designated Commission land burial sites prior arrangement must be made and approval obtained from the Commission representative at the site to which each waste transfer is to be made. In arranging such transfer the Commission will request information about the contents of each package, the method of packaging and the mode of transportation to the site. If a shipment of waste received by a Commission land burial site should be improperly packaged either through fault of the shipper or damaged in transit, the Commission would not return an improperly packaged shipment to the shipper but would take whatever steps were necessary at the receiving site to assure safety. The responsible party would be required to pay any expenses resulting from such special handling.

There are thousands of shipments of radioactive materials made in this country each year by all modes of transportation. For example, the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, which is the Commission's principal radioisotope supplier, makes over 12,000 shipments of radioactive material per year to all parts of the country. In addition, licensed radioisotope suppliers who distribute special forms of radioisotopes make many more shipments. Pharmaceutical companies make daily shipments of Iodine 131, Phosphorus 32, Gold 198, and Chromium 51 to physicians and hospitals throughout the country. The shipment of low level waste by AEC licensees to land burial sites will constitute only a small fraction of the total amount of radioactive material being transported. Based on previous experience, it is anticipated that most of the waste shipped to land burial sites by AEC licensees will have a low level of radioactivity and will be in the form of residual contamination on equipment such as test tubes, bottles, rubber gloves, clothing, paper and similar laboratory equipment.

In view of the foregoing, there does not appear to be sufficient reason for the Atomic Energy Commission to impose a restriction, such as the one suggested in your letter, on the shipment of waste by AEC licensees to the Commission land burial sites.

CC: Cong.H.Allen Smith(with ltr to Smith)

Sincerely yours,

OGC

PROD

CONG.L. (2)

AGMRS

AGM/

DGM

GM

Conc: DLR:RSB

PROD

OGC

DLR:Kirk

DLR:HLPrice

DAN:LRR:fla

6-22-60

T.B.P.

Chairman
June 22/60
6/23/60

1/20
6/24

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Don Nussbauer

On the Nuclear Corp
Ltr - Sherm Bowin
says Mr McCone wants
the reply made for his
signature.

Constructors are not so
tagged.

16h

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

✓ Via Secretariat 5/24/66
CN

- ☒ Digest
☐ Info paper
☐ No action

To:

General Manager
L & R

- ____ For information.
✓ For appropriate handling.
____ For preparation of reply for Chairman's signature (Refer
to Manual Chap. 0243).

Use special salutation:

Remarks:

RECEIVED

1960 MAY 24 AM 11 19

U. S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMM.
OFFICE OF THE
GENERAL MANAGER