

JUN 18 1997

ALL AGREEMENT AND NON-AGREEMENT STATES

TRANSMITTAL OF STATE AGREEMENTS PROGRAM INFORMATION (SP-97-046)

Your attention is invited to the enclosed correspondence which contains:

INCIDENT AND EVENT INFORMATION.....

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT INFORMATION..

TRAINING COURSE INFORMATION.....

TECHNICAL INFORMATION.....XX THORIUM ALLOYS
SCRAP METAL

OTHER INFORMATION.....

Supplementary Information: Enclosed for your information is a letter to Mr. Aubrey Godwin, Director of the Arizona Radiation Regulatory Agency, providing supplemental information on the handling of thoriated alloys as scrap metal. A subsequent question has also been raised relating to whether finished products or parts containing thorium tungsten or magnesium alloys covered under the provisions of 10 CFR 40.13(c)(4) could be transferred for disposal at a local non-licensed landfill. There are no provisions in §40.13(c)(4) that would preclude the transfer of finished products or parts to a local landfill for disposal as long as such material is not scrap.

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact me or the individual named below:

POINT OF CONTACT: Lloyd Bolling
TELEPHONE: (301) 415-2327
FAX: (301) 415-3502
INTERNET: LAB@NRC.GOV

Original Signed By
RICHARD L. BANGART

for Paul H. Lohaus, Deputy Director
Office of State Programs

9706270016 970618
PDR STPRG ESGGEN
PDR

Enclosure:
As stated

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

June 18, 1997

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Paul H. Lohaus, Deputy Director
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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

APR 17 1997

Mr. Aubrey V. Godwin, Director
Arizona Radiation Regulatory Agency
4814 South 40th Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85040

Dear Mr. Godwin:

This is to supplement information provided to you in our December 17, 1996 letter on the handling of finished aircraft engine parts containing nickel-thoria alloy as well as questions on smelting of thorium contaminated scrap. Our response to you has resulted in questions relative to nickel-thoria alloys covered by §40.13(c)(8) and other thorium alloys containing tungsten and magnesium covered under §40.13(c)(4). Further information follows:

Scrap processors and dealers can handle and process nickel-thoria alloys covered by the 10 CFR 40.13(c)(8) exemption which specifies that the thorium is dispersed in the nickel-thoria alloy in the form of finely divided thorium (thorium dioxide); and the thorium content in the nickel thorium alloy does not exceed 4% by weight.

It should be noted that no similar exemption exists for other thorium alloys containing tungsten or magnesium covered under §40.13(c)(4). Scrap dealers and processors may possess finished products or parts containing thorium alloy as described in 10 CFR 40.13 (c)(4), but are not allowed to process these finished products or parts. The exemption in 10 CFR 40.13 (c)(4) does not apply to scrap metal (by definition not finished products or parts) containing magnesium or tungsten-thorium alloys. These alloys may not be chemically, physically or metallurgically treated or processed after the finished products or parts are manufactured. Handling these alloys without a specific license, will place scrap processors in violation of §40.13(c)(4) or the equivalent Agreement State regulation.

We suggest that as specific cases are identified, you advise scrap processors not to handle any thorium alloy scrap unless they know the scrap's content and origin.

Sincerely,

/s/ Patricia Larkins for PHL

Paul H. Lohaus, Deputy Director
Office of State Program

5704300246 2P

From: MR AUBREY V GODWIN <GDWA23A@prodigy.com>
To: WND1.WNP9(ph1)
Date: 3/17/97 11:28am
Subject: Mag-Thoria

This is another one of those problem areas involving an exemption. We have been contacted by a consultant who indicated that his client was receiving aircraft part consisting of mag-thoria compounds. The client was drilling and grinding the parts for further use. Two workers were whole body counted for thorium and were negative. The client does not have a license. further, the client indicated that the NRC Licensee was aware of his activities and is transferring these part to several other unlicensed firms who are also grinding the parts.

I will advise as we develop more information.

Aubrey

CC: WND1.WNP9(lab).WCD1.WCP1(jwh3)

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