



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

OCT 11 1978

Memorandum to the Files

PROPOSED IMPORT LICENSE FOR 264 GRAMS PuO_2/UO_2 FROM JAPAN - ISNM01706

Transnuclear, Inc., submitted an application on February 1, 1977 for a license to import 264 grams of PuO_2/UO_2 contained in ten fuel pins. This quantity of material is shown as: 184.8 grams UO_2 and 79.2 grams PuO_2 containing 69.7 grams plutonium (63.66 grams fissile). The fuel pins are intended for use in Local Flow Blockage Tests and Loss of Coolant Flow Tests in the General Electric Test Reactor, Pleasanton, California or, in the event the GETR is not operating, in another facility yet to be determined. After completion of the tests the fuel pins are to be re-exported to Japan. Re-export would be the subject of a separate licensing action.

The Power Reactor and Nuclear Fuel Development Corporation, Tokyo, Japan, owns the material.

The fuel pins will be packaged in a D.O.T. - type 6M container in accordance with IAEA Certificate of Competent Authority Number USA/0002/B()F. It will be shipped by sea to the US and trucked from the port to Pleasanton, California. The 6M container is approved by NRC as packaging for the type and quantity of material to be imported under the proposed license.

The PuO_2/UO_2 is in a solid, nonparticulate oxide form in fabricated fuel pins. The staff concludes that the probability of a credible accident resulting in a significant environmental impact is remote. This assessment is substantiated in the "Final Environmental Statement on the Transportation of Radioactive Material by air and other Modes." NUREG-0170. (also see: BNWL-1846, "An Assessment of the Risk of Transporting Plutonium Oxide and Liquid Plutonium Nitrate By Truck", - T.I. McSweeney et al, August 1975).

The physical protection requirements of 10 CFR 73 are not applicable since the quantity of SNM to be imported is exempt under 10 CFR 73.1.

The proposed action conforms with the standard provisions governing such shipments and the staff finds that it will have no significant impact on the environment, will not be inimical to the common defense and security or constitute an undue risk to public health and safety.

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