

July 6, 1983

Docket Nos IRA 20 & 22

RSPA-1982-14328-38

We support the letters of the Governors of the states of New York and Vermont because we believe there should be a clear national policy concerning the transportation of irradiated fuel and nuclear wastes. We also feel that the design deficiencies of the present shipping casks are so severe that they present an unacceptable risk to public safety. Therefore they should be replaced with casks of stronger design.

In general, I feel that the Department of Transportation must reassess every aspect of their irradiated fuel shipment policy. Tie-down standards, drivers training programs, local emergency training programs, and route notification systems must be brought up to a level that shows true regard for the safety of people along the transport routes. At the same time the D.O.T. should consider new ways of approaching the irradiated fuel shipment and storage issue. For instance, on-site storage of nuclear wastes in dry storage casks.

Until a federal depository is operational would prevent a reshipment of the wastes. If these casks were approved and used as shipping casks, material transfer would be reduced. Also the D.O.T. should reevaluate shipping routes and modes of transportation to maximize public safety.

In conclusion, we believe that the issue of irradiated fuel transport should not be viewed by the D.O.T. from a standpoint of economic expediency. There is obviously a potential for grave public danger and the extra money and effort we feel should be spent on prevention of this eventuality would be a worthy investment.

Thank you for your consideration,
and time,

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