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**NEWPORT NEWS
INDUSTRIAL**

A Division of Newport News Shipbuilding

January 23, 1997

US Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region II
Nuclear Materials Safety Section
101 Marietta Street, Suite 2900
Atlanta, GA 30323

Attn. Mr. Earl G. Wright, Senior License Reviewer

Subject: Requested information concerning Materials License Application 45-11589-02 (Mail Control No.: 257242)

Dear Mr. Wright:

The following information is provided to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in response to its letter to Newport News Industrial (NNI) dated December 13, 1996.

Mr. Moran's formal training and on-the-job training pertaining to radiation safety

- Mr. Moran received formal radiation safety training, periodic refresher training, and training updates from Newport News Shipbuilding throughout his over 30 years participation in the Naval Nuclear Propulsion program. This radiation safety training has always met the stringent requirements of the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program. Mr. Moran's initial Radiation Safety and Contamination Control training course was approximately 1 week and was followed by refresher training approximately every 2 years since 1967. The periodic refresher training was performed either as a 3 to 5 day training course or as a self study course. During each recertification Mr. Moran was evaluated by comprehensive written examinations and by satisfactory demonstration of practical abilities for both the initial and refresher training.
- Mr. Moran has exercised radiological control, contamination control, and exposure reduction (ALARA) principles by safely removing spent nuclear fuel and installing new fuel for more than 30 naval nuclear reactor plants over the last 30 years. Most recently, Mr. Moran successfully managed the refueling of the 8 reactor USS Enterprise, considered one of the most complex nuclear projects. This project was followed by the defueling and decommissioning of the worlds largest nuclear cruiser, USS Long Beach. He has personally overhauled and managed the overhaul of various reactor components in a large number of reactor plants. Mr. Moran sponsored a team of engineers and operations personnel that improved ventilation and containment systems and work techniques that led to the elimination of the need for anti-contamination clothing while performing certain refueling operations. Over the years Mr. Moran maintained a refueling qualification that required satisfactory completion of recurrent written examinations and practical examinations using extensive mockups of spent fuel and new fuel handling operations. Knowledge and application of ALARA principles and various radiation safety and contamination control techniques and strategies are an integral part of these written examinations, practical examinations, and spent fuel and new fuel handling operations. This included personnel exposure monitoring, individual and job exposure control and reduction, contamination containment and control, waste handling, radioactive material storage and shipping, control

of radiological work using detail procedures, inspections, audits, and compliance with regulatory and contractual requirements.

- Mr. Moran has demonstrated and practiced his abilities to apply ALARA and contamination control principles throughout his 30 years in the Navy Nuclear Program. First working in and around highly radioactive and contaminated equipment and reactor components as a Lead Fuel Handler (1967 - 1971), a Machinery Installation (outside machinist) Supervisor (1971 - 1973), and as a Construction Supervisor (1972 - 1979). He continued to practice and apply ALARA and contamination control principles to fueling, refueling and overhaul work as a Production Manager (1979 - 1981), Construction Superintendent (1981 - 1983), Production Manager (1983 - 1986), Refueling/Overhaul Superintendent (1986 - 1988), Construction Manager (1988 - 1989), Construction Superintendent (1989 - 1991), Refueling Manager (1991 - 1994), Program Director (1994 - 1995), and Director (1996 - present).

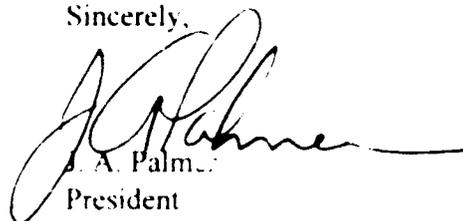
Backup radiation safety resources available to NNI in the event of unforeseen radiation emergencies

- The resources of Newport News Shipbuilding (NNS), the parent company of Newport News Industrial Division, will be available for emergency and recovery actions in the event of a radiation emergency involving licensed materials. NNS has a dedicated radiological control department with over 260 personnel, 115 of which are fully qualified radiological control technicians and 19 are radiation protection engineering personnel. As a result of its role in new construction, overhaul, refueling, and decommissioning of nuclear powered ships for the Department of the Navy, NNS has extensive resources including but not limited to: industrial equipment, radiation detection equipment, sampling equipment, contamination containment material and supplies, and the skills and expertise from numerous trades personnel trained in radiological work, support engineers, and specialist to use these resources effectively in response to a radiological emergency.

Notification of the NRC prior to commencing operation involving licensed materials

- Currently NNI has no operation involving licensed materials. NNI will notify the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region II in writing prior to commencing specific operations involving licensed materials.

Sincerely,


J. A. Palmieri
President

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