



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

(FSME-12-093, December, Other, Transportation Packages)

December 14, 2012

ALL AGREEMENT STATES

INFORMATION REGARDING CERTAIN TRANSPORTATION PACKAGES NO
LONGER AUTHORIZED FOR USE AFTER OCTOBER 1, 2008 (FSME-12-093)

Purpose: To provide the Agreement States with an update on the status of NRC actions related to a specific transportation package no longer authorized for use after October 1, 2008.

Background: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) received a Congressional inquiry in response to a request by a constituent. The constituent was requesting assistance from the Senator in asking the NRC to temporarily extend the certificate of compliance for the necessary transportation package to December 31, 2012. The NRC is providing the Agreement States with the information provided in the response to the Congressional inquiry.

Discussion: The Congressional letter and the NRC's response may be read in the Agencywide Documents and Access Management System in package [ML12296A221](#). In the NRC's response to the Congressional letter, staff summarized the current requirements related to certain transportation packages that would no longer be authorized for use after October 1, 2008. This date was established to allow for transition for the industry to procure packages certified under current NRC and Department of Transportation safety standards. Some of the industry had difficulty in procuring new packages or in certifying new package designs through third parties by the October 2008, deadline. The NRC issued Regulatory Issue Summary, [RIS-2008-18](#), "Information on Requests for Extending Use of Expiring Transportation Packages," establishing a process for granting special authorizations on a case-by-case basis.

The vast majority of the industry has transitioned to the NRC certified packages; however, earlier in 2012, a few remaining licensees were still indicating the need for approvals to use expired packages for several months or years. The NRC has advised these licensees that the agency would consider additional requests for special authorization on a case-by-case basis up to December 31, 2012. The staff would consider additional requests for extensions beyond 2012 only for critical needs.

The constituent requested assistance related to a specific package, GE-Hitachi, Model No. 1500 (for which the certification has expired). The constituent is purchasing new equipment that uses a radioactive source. J.L. Shepherd and Associates (JLSA) and GE-Hitachi (GEH) are two companies involved in obtaining the radioactive source and shipping that source. The shipping package by JLSA is now obsolete and all special permits and authorizations have expired. JLSA has submitted a new package design to the NRC. The NRC has completed its review and is now waiting for additional information from JLSA. According to JLSA, it will take about 2 years before a revised application is submitted for the NRC's continued review of the new design.

Regarding the Model No. 1500 package, GEH has requested authorization for additional shipments. At this time, the NRC's review of this request is in progress. If additional information from GEH is adequate, the NRC will approve GEH's request for additional shipments with this expired model.

If you have any questions regarding this communication, please contact me at 301-415-3340, or the individual named below:

POINT OF CONTACT: Torre Taylor
TELEPHONE: (301) 415-7900

E-MAIL: Torre.taylor@nrc.gov
FAX: (301) 415-5955

/RA PHenderson for/

Brian J. McDermott, Director
Division of Materials Safety and State Agreements
Office Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs