



IAEA

Atoms for Peace

الوكالة الدولية للطاقة الذرية

国际原子能机构

International Atomic Energy Agency

Agence internationale de l'énergie atomique

Международное агентство по атомной энергии

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Dear Ms. Smith,

I refer to your open letter of 2 March 2009 addressed to IAEA Director General ElBaradei that you co-signed with Dr. Teule and Mr. Ban and which was prompted by your concerns about potential security and nuclear proliferation risks of nuclear fuel shipments.

As regards the potential diversion of nuclear materials, the specific mixed-oxide (MOX) fuel shipment to which you refer will be under IAEA seal from the point of origin of the transport to the point of delivery and will remain under IAEA safeguards. In carrying out its safeguards verification activities the Agency does not differentiate between different isotopic grades of plutonium (i.e. the same verification measures apply). The Agency does however take into account the technological capabilities that would be required for processing materials into a form that could be suitable for nuclear explosive use.

In connection with such shipments, States would normally be expected to apply the relevant conventions to which they are a Party and the requirements of the international safety standards and security guidance of the IAEA in order to ensure the safety and security of the nuclear material. The shipment of your concern is no exception to these requirements.

While the shipments are internationally regulated, they are carried out under the legal authority and responsibility of the States concerned. Therefore, should you have further questions regarding the specific shipment of your concern you may wish to address them directly to those States.

I trust the above information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Marc Vidricaire

Director

Division of Public Information