

DOCKETED



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PROPOSED RULE **PR 72**  
*(64FR1542)*

March 29, 1999

Secretary  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Attn: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff

Subject: Proposed NRC Rule, "List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: Addition"

References: (1) Volume 64, Federal Register, Page 1542 (64FR1542), dated January 11, 1999

(2) Holtec Users' Group Public Comment Letter No. 5030-1, dated March 24, 1999

This letter provides Commonwealth Edison (ComEd) Company comments on the subject proposed NRC rule noticed in 64FR1542. The proposed rule would add the Holtec International HI-STAR 100 cask system to the List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks in 10 CFR 72.214. We generally agree with the proposed rule, but have specific comments as delineated in the Attachment. Additionally, as a member of the Holtec Users' Group, we participated in the development of and endorse the comments submitted in the Reference 2 letter.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact K. A. Ainger at (630) 663-7350.

Respectfully,

*K. A. Ainger for*

R. M. Krich  
Vice President – Regulatory Services

Attachment

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 11-15-01 BY 60322/UC/STP

## **ComEd Comments on Proposed NRC Rule, "List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: Addition"**

### Proposed Certificate of Compliance

Condition 10 in the proposed Certificate of Compliance pertains to changes to the cask design and procedures. As currently written, this condition would not allow changes to the cask design or procedures that meet the criteria of 10 CFR 72.48, "Changes, tests, and experiments," to be made without prior NRC approval. Condition 10 should be revised to allow such changes to be made without prior NRC approval.

The Attachment to the proposed Certificate of Compliance is described as the HOLTEC HI-STAR 100 CASK SYSTEM Preliminary Safety Evaluation Report. The Attachment should be the Technical Specifications.

### Preliminary Safety Evaluation Report for the Holtec HI-STAR 100 Cask System

Section 8.1.4 discusses the evaluation of welding and sealing procedures. This section should be revised to recognize the option of performing manual welding, in accordance with a user's as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA) practices, of the multi-purpose canister (MPC) lid closure weld.

Section 8.3.1 discusses the evaluation of cooling, venting and reflooding during cask unloading operations. This section should be revised to allow the option of a once-through purge in lieu of the closed-loop cooling system.

### Technical Specifications and Bases for the Holtec HI-STAR 100 Spent Fuel Storage Cask System

Limiting Conditions for Operation (LCO) 3.1.1 through 3.1.6 cover vacuum drying, and helium backfill and leakrate for the MPC and overpack. The 48 hour time limit to complete the required action if these LCO's are not met is overly restrictive. It is not clear what the rationale is for stating in the Bases for these Actions that the Completion Time (i.e., 48 hours) is sufficient to determine and correct most failure mechanisms.

Design Features Section 4.6 , Training Module, should be deleted. A general licensee is required by 10 CFR 72.212(b)(6) to review, among other programs,

the training program and make any necessary changes. This technical specification duplicates the requirement of the regulation.

Design Features Section 4.7, Pre-Operational Testing and Training Exercise, should be deleted. The review of the training program required by 10 CFR 72.212(b)(6) will determine the appropriate elements of a dry run training exercise.