

March 10, 2000

MEMORANDUM TO: Ashok C. Thadani, Director
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

FROM: William F. Kane, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR EXPEDITED ACTIVITIES RELATED TO
PROBABILISTIC RISK ASSESSMENT OF DRY STORAGE OF SPENT
NUCLEAR FUEL

This memorandum requests expedited actions related to selected activities on our existing user need letter for a probabilistic risk analysis on dry storage of spent nuclear fuel. Given the heightened visibility of the upcoming hearings on the Private Fuel Storage Facility (PFS) application, staff from the Spent Fuel Project Office and Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) met on February 1 and 3, 2000, to develop short-term needs that can potentially be useful in the upcoming hearings. Specifically, SFPO requested the following information to support our June 2000 hearing date:

1. Quantification of the probability of experiencing a leak in the HI-STORM cask under normal and accident conditions.
2. For a postulated welding defect resulting in a leak below the technical specification limit, quantification of the probability of the welding defect growing to a larger size, thereby, exceeding the technical specification leak rate.
3. Best estimate source terms that can escape a postulated hole size of 6.4E-4 cm.

The staff established a review team composed of RES and SFPO staff to accomplish the desired short- and long-term objectives.

Attached is a summary of the February 3, 2000, meeting between RES and SFPO staff. We are pleased with the continued cooperation and heightened priority placed on our user need request.

Attachment: Memo dtd 02/11/00 fr
M.W. Hodges to M.E. Mayfield
and T.L. King (w/o attachments)

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G:\Kane-Thadani-02-24-00-memo.wpd *see previous concurrence

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