



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

June 5, 2000

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

FROM: /RA by Martin J. Virgilio, Acting For/  
William F. Kane, Director  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR LONG-TERM TASK INTERFACE AGREEMENT  
FOR REVIEW OF SPENT FUEL CASK FRACTURE  
MECHANICS ANALYSES

The Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards (NMSS) requests assistance from the Office of Regulatory Research (RES) for the review of spent fuel storage and transportation cask designs in the area of fracture mechanics analyses. From time to time, applicants submit license applications which include a fracture mechanics analysis of the spent fuel cask performance under design accident conditions. The Spent Fuel Project Office (SFPO) in NMSS is responsible for such reviews. However, SFPO has determined that due to the infrequent nature of applicant submittals containing fracture mechanics analyses, it is not justifiable to acquire and maintain such expertise within the SFPO staff.

SFPO requests the establishment of a Task Interface Agreement, on a continuing as-needed basis, for RES to perform reviews of fracture mechanics analyses. Such reviews would be performed according to SFPO procedures and the review schedule for each specific case. Work product from RES would be in the form of a draft request for additional information, a draft safety evaluation, or both depending upon circumstances.

It is anticipated that there may be one or two of these reviews per year. Ed Hackett, of your staff, was previously involved with such reviews and is familiar with the nature and level of effort. Resource needs to support this proposal could be estimated from this prior experience.

After review of this request, your staff should contact E. William Brach, Director, NMSS/SFPO, to discuss this request and its implementation.

CONTACT: Geoffrey P. Hornseth, NMSS/SFPO  
(301) 415-2756

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