



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

June 10, 2000

MEMORANDUM TO: Gary M. Holahan, Director  
Division of Systems, Safety and Analysis  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: E. William Brach, Director  
Spent Fuel Project Office  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON CONSIDERATIONS OF REACTOR OPERATIONS RELATED TO THE STORAGE AND TRANSPORTATION OF HIGH BURNUP FUEL

We have been working with one of your staff in the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR), Margaret Chatterton, on issues related to high burnup fuel. We would like to continue to coordinate our efforts on the dry storage and transportation of spent fuel with your efforts on in-reactor performance and spent fuel pool storage. With your assistance, we will seek to develop well informed and coordinated staff guidance that will be incorporated into future Spent Fuel Project Office (SFPO) standard review plans.

Over the last year, the SFPO staff has developed interim guidance that identifies high burnup fuel data needs to support the licensing of storage casks. Through interactions with the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), industry representatives, and SFPO applicants, we have identified a need to develop a greater understanding of in-reactor fuel performance issues that may affect the safe storage and transportation of high burnup fuel.

SFPO staff has spoken with Margaret Chatterton, in regards to information on these fuel performance issues. In return, we have provided her with information on transportation casks and have assisted in issues related to the transportation of the H. B. Robinson fuel to be used in the research. This research is currently being conducted for the NRC at Argonne National Laboratory. She has provided outstanding support to one of my staff, Kimberly Gruss, by providing information on a timely basis. She also supported us in a recent meeting with NEI and the industry on the storage of high burnup fuels. We would like to continue to work closely with NRR to develop a coordinated approach to high burnup fuels.

We anticipate that the continuation of support may require up to five or six hours of her time per month. The SFPO TAC number for this activity is L20646 (PA Code 221AHD).

On behalf of SFPO, I would like to thank both you, and Margaret Chatterton, for your assistance in providing us with up-to-date information on high burnup fuels. I look forward to our continued work and support in the future. Kimberly Gruss is the SFPO contact on this activity. She can be contacted on 301-415-8586.

June 10, 2000

MEMORANDUM TO: Gary Holahan, Director  
Division of Systems, Safety and Analysis  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: E. William Brach, Director  
Spent Fuel Project Office  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON CONSIDERATIONS OF REACTOR OPERATIONS RELATED TO THE STORAGE AND TRANSPORTATION OF HIGH BURNUP FUEL

We have been working with one of your staff in the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR), Margaret Chatterton, on issues related to high burnup fuel. We would like to continue to coordinate our efforts on the dry storage and transportation of spent fuel with your efforts on in-reactor performance and spent fuel pool storage. With your assistance, we will seek to develop well informed and coordinated staff guidance that will be incorporated into future Spent Fuel Project Office (SFPO) standard review plans.

Over the last year, the SFPO staff has developed interim guidance that identifies high burnup fuel data needs to support the licensing of storage casks. Through interactions with the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), industry representatives, and SFPO applicants, we have identified a need to develop a greater understanding of in-reactor fuel performance issues that may affect the safe storage and transportation of high burnup fuel.

SFPO staff has spoken with Margaret Chatterton, in regards to information on these fuel performance issues. In return, we have provided her with information on transportation casks and have assisted in issues related to the transportation of the H. B. Robinson fuel to be used in the research. This research is currently being conducted for the NRC at Argonne National Laboratory. She has provided outstanding support to one of my staff, Kimberly Gruss, by providing information on a timely basis. She also supported us in a recent meeting with NEI and the industry on the storage of high burnup fuels. We would like to continue to work closely with NRR to develop a coordinated approach to high burnup fuels.

We anticipate that we may need to request up to five or six hours of her time per month. The SFPO TAC number is L20646 (PA Code 221AHD). If that number won't work in your system, we request that NRR open a separate TAC number. Kimberly Gruss is the SFPO contact on this activity. She can be contacted on 301-415-8586.

We anticipate that the continuation of support may require up to five or six hours of her time per month. The SFPO TAC number for this activity is L20646 (PA Code 221AHD).

On behalf of SFPO, I would like to thank both you, and Margaret Chatterton, for your assistance in providing us with up-to-date information on high burnup fuels. I look forward to our continued work and support in the future. Kimberly Gruss is the SFPO contact on this activity. She can be contacted on 301-415-8586.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

NRC File Center                      SFPO r/f                      NMSS r/f

C:\user need\_hbf.wpd                      \*see previous concurrence                      ADAMS: ML003719794

<b>OFC:</b>	DD:SFPO	D:SFPO						
<b>NAME:</b>	MWHodges	EWBrach						
<b>DATE:</b>	6/1/00	6/10/00						

**OFFICIAL RECORD COPY**