

HIGH-BURNUP LIMITS

NRC/NEI Meeting
April 27, 2000



Margaret S. Chatterton

PRESENT STATUS

- Burnup limit of 62 GWD/MTU
 - Both BWRs and PWRs
 - Peak Rod Average
- Reviewing Requests for Higher Burnup
 - Limiting to 62GWD/MTU
- Oxide Thickness Limit of 100 Microns
 - Predicted
 - Best-Estimate Codes

BURNUP EXTENSION

- NEI and Robust Fuel Program Proposing
 - 75 GWD/MTU for PWRs
 - 70 GWD/MTU
- 3-5 Year Time Frame

BURNUP EXTENSION GUIDELINES

- Address Current Licensing Requirements including LOCA, ATWS and RIA
- Be Risk Informed
- Emphasis on Lead Test Assemblies
 - Prototypical
 - Power History
 - Type of Fuel and Cladding
 - Up to Requested Burnup
 - Near Limiting Locations
- Fuel Performance Monitoring Program

BASIC APPROACH

- NRC Working With Industry to Develop a Strategy and a Plan
- Industry Will Develop the Plan
- Industry Will Do the Testing and Develop the Criteria
- NRC Will Review and Endorse it as a Regulatory Guide