

June 30, 2000

Dear Colleague:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) Spent Fuel Project Office is completing the scoping phase of the Package Performance Study (PPS). The PPS will investigate the performance of spent nuclear fuel transportation casks during severe accidents, and, therefore, will support risk assessments. The technical report for a related study, NUREG/CR-6672, "Reexamination of Spent Fuel Shipment Risk Estimates," was published in March 2000, and a "plain language" brochure is being developed to complement that technical report. We invite you to attend two public workshops and two public meetings that will focus on these activities, and specifically, the two enclosed documents: (1) the PPS issues and resolution options report, and (2) a discussion paper regarding NUREG/CR-6672 that will evolve into the "plain language" brochure. The meetings are planned as follows:

- Workshop: August 15, 2000, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., in the Hawaiian room at the Tropicana Hotel, 3801 Las Vegas Boulevard, Las Vegas, NV;
- Public meeting: August 15, 2000, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., in the Hawaiian room at the Tropicana Hotel, 3801 Las Vegas Boulevard, Las Vegas, NV;
- Public meeting: August 16, 2000, 7:00 - 9:00 pm, at the Mountain View Casino & Bowl, 1750 Pahrump Valley Blvd., Pahrump, NV; and
- Workshop: September 13, 2000, 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., in the NRC's Two-White Flint North Auditorium, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD.

The first part of each meeting will be about NUREG/CR-6672 and the discussion paper, and the remainder of the meeting will be to discuss the PPS issues report. NRC is sharing these documents with the public before the public meetings to obtain timely feedback on their content and to continue the constructive interactions on transportation risk issues that began at the 1999 PPS workshops. NRC is particularly interested in your views on the risk discussions in the paper.

Regarding the PPS issues report, we want to ensure that comments made at the 1999 public workshops, made in letters, or made through the Web site, have been included and appropriately characterized in this report. Also, we want to discuss and obtain feedback on the assessment of the issues raised, the resolution options suggested, and the ratings of these solution options. While the issues report contains the NRC contractor's views and recommendations, at the meetings we hope to further discuss your views and the NRC staff views on these issues as well. NRC will use the discussions on the PPS issues report to help decide which issues and resolution options will be examined by the next phase of the PPS.

A World Wide Web site has been established for dissemination of PPS information to interested members of the public. Electronic copies of the enclosed documents, NUREG/CR-6672, and additional information on the public meetings, can be obtained at <http://ttd.sandia.gov/nrc/modal.htm>. If you have questions, feel free to call Mr. Robert Lewis on (301) 415-8527.

Sincerely,
/RA/ original signed by /s/
E. William Brach, Director
Spent Fuel Project Office
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosures:

1. Spent Nuclear Fuel Transportation Package
Performance Study, Issues Report
2. An Updated View of Spent Fuel Transportation
Risk, A Summary Paper for Public Meetings

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