

**From:** Tim McGinty  
**To:** Ron Parkhill  
**Date:** Mon, Jun 5, 2000 5:46 PM  
**Subject:** OK, I'm ready to talk to NAC on the Maine Yankee thermal issue

I talked to Randy Hall about it. I think you, Wayne and Randy understand my points, and I think I've understood yours.

I would like to talk to Wayne once more before we call NAC. I would like to be able to settle on "how much" margin would suffice, and then we go about conveying it. I could envision (at Randy's prompting) it being relatively straightforward, maybe not even needing a NAC submittal. Something along the lines of:

"The applicant provided an analysis for a series of lower decay heat loads, using the same methodology as the design basis heat load, to establish allowable times in the transfer cask during vacuum drying, helium backfill, and during the loading operations. The staff has granted (pick a number, any number) 50% of the additional time supported in the analysis to ascertain, with reasonable assurance, that the preferential loading of assemblies in lower overall cask heatload configurations will not result in exceeding any component temperature limits. The staff considers that the probability of a mis-loading and the probability of exceeding component temperature limits due to a mis-loading, increases when loading less than the design basis heat load, and thus has established greater margin in the allowable time frames."

What do you think? I know it's not really quantitative to any great extent, but it would simply be more margin. If not, I guess we would have to go into the "pick a design basis assembly and put it in the worst place, and see what times come out" scenario.

I'll bother you tomorrow, and we'll see if we can catch Wayne.

**CC:** Earl Easton, James Randall Hall, M. Wayne Hodges

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