

NAC-UMS Maine Yankee Issue on Lower Heat Loads

Background:

Notified in late-March that NUTUG intended to make a public comment for NAC-UMS rulemaking asking for lower heat loads, and thus longer times allowed in the transfer cask for vacuum drying, helium back-fill and cask loading.

3/29/00: Conference Call (Hodges, Kokajko, Easton, Hall, McGinty with NAC (Pennington, Bill Lee) where we conveyed that NRC will likely not agree to make such changes to the NAC-UMS via the rulemaking process. Gave NAC the option to consider putting such a change into the Maine Yankee amendment with the understanding that it could impact the schedule if our review identified any significant issues.

4/7/00: Informed by NAC that they would like to pursue these changes for the Maine Yankee amendment.

4/18/00: Received revised amendment request.

Early June: We identified the need for a mis-loading analysis due to the higher probability of a mis-load, and a potential decrease in the existing margins to component temperature limits (needs further review).

6/7/00: Also identified that NAC is seeking a change to use NS-3 material in the shield lid via the 4/18/00 submittal, without any additional analysis (shielding or materials).

Options: Inform NAC to consider the following

1) Continue to pursue the lower heat load aspects of this amendment. Staff to complete review of all aspects and generate formal RAI. RAI issued by 6/23/00. Assuming a two-week turnaround (July 7), technical staff to complete review and final SER by 7/21/00, complete package preparation and office concurrence in 2 weeks (August 4). Assuming about 10 months for rulemaking, this would push the ultimate approval of the Maine Yankee amendment to about June 2001. Maine Yankee has expressed a desired approval date of April 2001.

2) Pull the lower heat load aspects of this amendment. Staff has already provided SER input, although a few cleanup issues have been identified recently for NAC to act on. Tech staff to complete final SER's by June 16. Complete package preparation and office concurrence in 2 weeks, June 30. Assuming about 10 months for rulemaking, this would result in the ultimate approval of the Maine Yankee amendment by late April 2001.

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