

February 26, 2001

Mr. William H. Lake
Waste Acceptance and
Transportation Division
Office of Civilian Radioactive
Waste Management
U.S. Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

SUBJECT: FINAL ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE CENTRALIZED INTERIM
STORAGE FACILITY

Dear Mr. Lake:

By letter dated May 1, 1997, as supplemented, the Department of Energy (DOE) submitted the Centralized Interim Storage Facility (CISF) Topical Safety Analysis Report (TSAR) to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and requested that the NRC staff evaluate the TSAR and issue a Safety Evaluation Report (SER) that could be used and referenced by an applicant seeking a site-specific license for construction and operation of the CISF. The scope of the NRC's review was limited to the information provided in the TSAR, the DOE responses to the NRC's requests for additional information, and the references cited. Due to the inherent limitation of the TSAR, the NRC staff decided to issue an Assessment Report (AR, enclosed) instead of an SER. Because the TSAR is not site-specific and is lacking certain specific detailed information, a complete review addressing all of the pertinent NRC regulations is not possible. Additional information that must be included in a site-specific safety analysis report for the CISF is identified in the AR. The AR has been formatted in accordance with the NRC Standard Review Plan for Dry Spent Fuel Storage Facilities, NUREG-1567.

No licensing determinations have been made. In addition, the findings identified in each chapter are preliminary and subject to further review when a complete application is submitted. Since this review began, changes have been made to the NRC regulations and staff guidance for review of dry cask storage systems. For example, a loss of confinement accident (considered in the TSAR and in this report) is no longer considered a credible event. Other developments have also affected this project. For example, potential locations for the CISF are limited due to consideration of earthquakes and other concerns. The complete application should account for all changes to DOE project dispositions and NRC guidance up to the time of the submittal.

Cask-specific information is presented as stated in the DOE documents. Most of these casks were not approved by NRC at the time of the submittals, and the licensing status of the casks continues to evolve. In addition, the name and ownership of the casks in some cases has changed and may change in the future. Therefore, new submittals must account for these changes.

W. Lake

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This completes the NRC effort on this task. Please contact me or Allen Hansen of my staff at (301) 415-8500 if you have questions regarding the report.

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

Docket No. 72-21

TAC No. L22327

Enclosure: Final Assessment Report

W. Lake

- 2 -

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Enclosure: Final Assessment Report

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DATE	02/12/01		02/13/01		02/13/01		02/13/01		02/16/01			

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