

11/24/99 I told D. Jackson

MEMORANDUM TO: Ashok C. Thadani, Director
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

FROM: Samuel J. Collins, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR SPENT FUEL POOL ACCIDENT RISK ASSESSMENT
FOR DECOMMISSIONING PLANTS

In April 1999, the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) formed a technical working group (TWG) to perform a study of spent fuel pool accident risk at decommissioning plants. The TWG requested the support of the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) in several areas to perform this study. On November 23, 1999, members of my staff from the Division of Systems Safety and Analysis (DSSA) met with members of your staff from the Safety Margins and Systems Analysis Branch (SMSAB) to discuss a memorandum dated November 12, 1999, which mentioned additional work being performed by RES. Specifically, it stated that further recommendations for the thermal hydraulic and consequence analysis will be provided by January 2000. The TWG is scheduled to release its report from the study for public comment in January and its final report in April. The purpose of the meeting was to clarify the work that was being performed and establish a schedule to support the study being performed by NRR.

The primary intent of the memorandum was to transmit a consequence analysis report that was provided in summary form in May 1999. The report finalized the work initiated from a user need letter dated, March 26, 1999. However, it was agreed in the meeting that areas of uncertainty and conservatism in the analysis should be identified if at some time in the future additional refinement of the analysis was needed. It was agreed that this information will be provided by December 10, 1999, for inclusion in the January report.

In a recent Advisory Committee of Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) meeting on the TWG study, SMSAB supported NRR in responding to ACRS questions regarding the consequences of spent fuel pool accidents. It was agreed that SMSAB would be best suited to address the ACRS concerns in the following areas: the role of ruthenium and the impact of a Canadian study, and the effect, if any, due to the formation of zirconium hydride nodules and uranium trioxide. It was agreed that this information will be provided by January 14, 1999, to support the next ACRS meeting.

In the meeting, it was also clarified that the thermal hydraulic work mentioned in the November 12, 1999, memorandum is the work in response to the user need letter dated April 16, 1999. A schedule was established for preliminary conclusions to be provided to the appropriate TWG member by December 10, 1999, for inclusion in the January report and the final written report to be transmitted by January 31, 2000. This schedule was mutually agreeable to both offices to support the schedule for the TWG study and allow RES sufficient time to finalize the work into report format. These two deliverables will complete the work in response to the user need letter dated April 16, 1999.

NRR appreciates the continued support from RES.

Concurrence: D Jackson / G Hubbard / J Hannon / G Holahan / B Sheron / S Collins
FILE NAME: G:\SPLB\SECIONA\JACKSON\RES-response.wpd

credit for Nov 99 memo + attachment?
RES concurrence on final SFP reports?

Bygd is a TWG member, too.

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From: Diane Jackson *JNR*
To: Christopher Boyd, Farouk Eitawila, Jason Schaper...
Date: Wed, Nov 24, 1999 3:14 PM
Subject: Draft memo as followup to 11/23 mtg

Farouk -

Please find attached my draft of the response memo to RES's memo dated November 12 that John Hannon, Joe Staudenmeier, Tanya Eaton and I discussed with you, Jason Schaperow and Chris Boyd yesterday regarding work to support our technical study on spent fuel pool accidents.

We appreciate the work your group has performed for us and your understanding of our scheduler needs. I hope this memo helps define the work that is needed to continue your support of our study.

Please let me know if you have any comments or questions (415-8548).

Have a Happy Thanksgiving,
Diane

CC: GTH, John Hannon, Joseph Staudenmeier, Tanya Ea...