



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

June 18, 2001

MEMORANDUM TO: Charles Miller, Deputy Director  
Licensing and Inspection Directorate  
Spent Fuel Project Office, NMSS

FROM: Rebecca Karas, Project Engineer */RA/*  
Licensing Section  
Spent Fuel Project Office, NMSS

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MAY 31, 2001, PHONE CALL WITH NAC  
INTERNATIONAL, REGARDING TECHNICAL ISSUES  
ASSOCIATED WITH A NAC-UMS STORAGE AMENDMENT  
FOR MAINE YANKEE (TAC NO. L23217)

On May 31, 2001, staff from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, representatives from NAC International (NAC) and representatives from Maine Yankee participated in a phone call to discuss several technical issues. The technical issues were associated with NAC's amendment request dated October 17, 2000, as supplemented December 7, 2000, and April 27, 2001, for Certificate of Compliance No. 1015 for cask Model No. NAC-UMS. The amendment request was for changes needed at Maine Yankee's Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI).

Two technical issues were discussed in the teleconference: NAC's request to remove one of the Required Actions of Technical Specification (TS) 3.1.6, Concrete Cask Heat Removal System, and NAC's request to allow storage of a boronemeter source positioned within a stored spent fuel assembly at the Maine Yankee ISFSI.

The requested change to TS 3.1.6 would remove the provision to place a canister in the transfer cask and initiate forced air cooling if the canister's storage cask vents become blocked, and cannot be unblocked within the specified time. NRC staff discussed the concern that TS 3.1.6 appears to be the only provision in the Certificate of Compliance and Technical Specifications that specifies that the site must maintain the capability to use a transfer cask during storage operations, if needed. NAC questioned the need to retain the capability to unload a canister into a transfer cask as a contingency for an unplanned and unanticipated event, particularly after spent fuel pool decommissioning. NRC staff explained that contingencies have already been needed at other facilities to deal with problems arising with the cask during storage. NRC staff suggested that if NAC wishes to continue to pursue removal of the TS Action Statement, a TS or Certificate of Compliance provision specifying alternate approaches to contingency operations or referencing a contingency plan should be proposed by NAC as a substitute.

Maine Yankee questioned the regulatory basis for a contingency capability. Maine Yankee proposed that a contingency plan could consist of repairing damaged casks with epoxy or some other compound. NRC staff stated such options could be considered, however the materials aspects would need to be reviewed, as well as the adequacy of such a repair in ensuring public health and safety. NRC staff stated that examples of options that should be considered would be the ready availability of a transfer and/or transport cask, or the availability of a spent fuel pool, but that it was up to Maine Yankee and NAC to determine how best to address contingencies.

NRC staff stated that leaving the TS Action Statement as is would address concerns related to contingencies and in that case the current schedule would probably not be impacted.

NRC staff next discussed the issue related to storage of a boronometer source with NAC and Maine Yankee. NRC staff did not agree that the boronometer source was associated with the spent fuel, since the boronometer source was operated outside of fuel assemblies, and also outside of the reactor vessel itself. NRC staff concluded that since the boronometer source is not associated with the spent fuel, its storage in a cask is not authorized under the provisions of 10 CFR Part 72.

NAC asked if the boronometer source issue could affect the current review schedule if a supplement terminating the request to include the boronometer source were to be provided soon. NRC staff stated that, in the absence of the Technical Specification issue, a supplement to address the boronometer source should not impact the review schedule, and that the NAC Licensing Manager should contact the NRC Project Manager to discuss the schedule.

Maine Yankee stated that they may pursue these issues with NRC management outside of the Spent Fuel Project Office. NRC staff then stated that a followup letter would be provided to NAC stating the schedule impacts and discussing the NRC concerns.

No proprietary information was discussed in the conference call, and no regulatory decisions were requested or made.

Docket No.: 72-1015

Attachment: Participant List

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**ATTACHMENT**

**May 31, 2001 Phone Call  
between the Nuclear Regulatory Commission,  
NAC International and Maine Yankee**

**PARTICIPANT LIST**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Wayne Hodges	NRC/NMSS/SFPO
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Nancy Osgood	NRC/NMSS/SFPO
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Tom Williamson	Maine Yankee
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