



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

July 12, 2001

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

THRU: Mark Delligatti, Acting Chief /RA/  
Licensing Section  
Licensing and Inspection Directorate  
Spent Fuel Project Office, NMSS

FROM: James R. Hall, Sr. Project Manager  
Licensing Section  
Licensing and Inspection Directorate  
Spent Fuel Project Office, NMSS

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF JUNE 6, 2001 PUBLIC MEETING WITH GENERAL  
ELECTRIC REGARDING THE 10 CFR PART 72 LICENSE RENEWAL  
APPLICATION FOR GE-MORRIS (TAC NO. L23091)

On June 6, 2001, NRC staff from the Spent Fuel Project Office and their technical assistance contractors from Advanced Technologies and Laboratories International, Inc., met with representatives of the General Electric Company (GE) at the GE Morris Operation (GEMO) in Morris, Illinois. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the staff's ongoing review of GE's application for renewal of the GEMO 10 CFR Part 72 license for storage of spent nuclear fuel. The meeting was publicly noticed on May 25, 2001. Attachment 1 is a list of attendees; Attachment 2 is the meeting agenda; and Attachment 3 is the handout provided by GEMO.

The NRC staff opened with a general statement on the purpose of the meeting and scope of its review. The staff described its approach for the safety review of the GEMO license renewal application, and noted that currently, no detailed guidance exists for the review of a license renewal application for a wet, pool-type spent fuel storage facility like GEMO. The staff's review of the GEMO renewal application will rely in part on existing NRC review guidance for operating reactor license renewals under 10 CFR Part 54 (that guidance specifically related to spent fuel pools and associated equipment), and on review guidance currently under development for 10 CFR Part 72 license renewals for dry cask storage systems. The 10 CFR Part 72 preliminary renewal guidance was provided for comment in a letter to Virginia Power on March 29, 2001; a copy of that letter was provided to the GEMO staff. The NRC staff further indicated that the focus of its review will be on aging management and the processes, programs, policies, and procedures GEMO has in place to identify, mitigate, and reduce the impact of age related degradation on the facility.

GEMO staff then presented an overview of the licensing history of the facility and also discussed some of the major decontamination, restoration, and improvement projects the site has undertaken in the recent past. These projects included: emptying and decontaminating

three underground vaults (the Low Activity Waste vault, the cladding vault, and the dry chemical vault), replacement of the basin water cooling system with a Freon heat exchanger and new external coolers, replacement of the basin water purification system with a new demineralizer system, and replacement of the plant air compressors with smaller, more efficient units. In addition, to assess the corrosion rate of the basin pool stainless steel liner, GE removed a sample coupon from the liner plate. Examination of the amount of corrosion on the sample was used to estimate the overall basin corrosion rate, discussed further in the licensee's renewal application.

GEMO staff identified some of the maintenance, inspection, and testing programs in use at the site. They use a computer-generated preventive maintenance program to track and schedule preventive and predictive maintenance tasks. The schedule is printed out each month and reviewed by the maintenance supervisor and operations engineer to determine availability of equipment and schedule equipment downtime. Corrective maintenance tasks are incorporated into the schedule.

GEMO staff then discussed their operating experience with basin liner leakage. The storage basins are filled with demineralized water and are constructed of welded steel liners, with 2-4 foot thick reinforced concrete walls and floors. A leak detection and pump out system is designed to collect any leakage through the basin liners in a one inch channel between the steel liner and the concrete, which feeds into a sump. In the early 1990's, in response to an increase in liner leakage, a sensitive microphone was used to listen to all accessible welds to identify the source(s). A few small holes were found in the liner and repaired, and the outflow rate has been stable at about seven gallons per hour since the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 1994.

A site tour was conducted by GEMO staff at the close of the meeting. All major facilities and areas were visited. No regulatory decisions were requested or made at this meeting.

Attachments:

1. Attendance List
2. Agenda
3. GEMO Slides

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<b>DATE:</b>	7/11/01		7/11/01		7/12/01					

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**NRC/GE-MORRIS MEETING  
June 6, 2001  
ATTENDEES**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>TELEPHONE</b>
Randy Hall	NRC/Spent Fuel Project Office	301-415-1336
Mark Orr	ATL	301-515-6794
Abe Zeitoun	ATL	301-515-6770
Mark Notich	ATL	301-515-6775
Don Palmrose	ATL	301-515-6769
Harold Burton	Sciencetech	301-258-2470
Dan Prochnow	Sciencetech	301-258-1870
Jim Ellis	GE Morris Operation	815-942-5590, x 15
Ed Secko	GE Morris Operation	815-942-5590, x 55
Brian Craig	GE Morris Operation	815-942-5590
Rick Zuffa	Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety	815-942-2920, x2931

**NRC/GE MEETING ON THE GE-MORRIS  
INDEPENDENT SPENT FUEL STORAGE INSTALLATION LICENSE RENEWAL  
June 6, 2001**

**Agenda**

1. Introductions
2. GE-Morris Facility Overview/Licensing History
3. NRC comments and questions from preliminary review of renewal application
4. Review schedule/Future meetings