

January 9, 2002

LICENSEE: Duke Energy Corporation

FACILITY: McGuire Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2

SUBJECT: SUMMARY - MEETING WITH DUKE ENERGY ON SPENT FUEL POOL  
BORAFLEX UPDATE (TAC NOS. MB3570 AND MB3571)

Representatives of Duke Energy Corporation (DEC), met with members of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff at NRC Headquarters on December 11, 2001, in Rockville, Maryland. DEC requested this meeting to provide an update on the McGuire spent fuel pool (SFP) boraflex issue and to outline their plans for the future submittal of a license amendment application dealing with the issue. A list of attendees is provided in Attachment 1.

An amendment to the McGuire Technical Specifications (TS) was issued on November 27, 2000, to allow credit for soluble boron in the SFP criticality analyses. The analyses account for a credit for the degraded spent fuel rack Boraflex neutron absorber panels. The McGuire SFP consists of two fuel pools with a two-region design. Region one is designed for storage of new and recently discharged fuel. Region 2 is designed for long-term storage of burned fuel assemblies. Based on allowance for partial Boraflex credit, the regions are further divided into Alpha and Bravo sub-regions. Alpha areas of Region 1 take credit for 25% of the Boraflex and Alpha areas of Region 2 take credit for 50% of the Boraflex. Bravo areas of Regions 1 and 2 take no credit for Boraflex and result in severe storage restrictions for affected and surrounding cells. Further details of Duke's presentation are provided in Attachment 2.

Duke described its overall plan for management of SFP storage capacity and indicated that part of its near-term plan is to request a TS amendment to change the threshold for Alpha to Bravo from 50% to 40% Boraflex credit. This would extend the critical need date to the end of 2005. It would result in more restrictive storage requirement for Alpha cells but would reduce the number of Bravo cells. Duke indicated that this TS amendment request would be identical in all other aspects to the application that was approved by NRC on November 27, 2000. Duke indicated that it planned to submit this TS amendment in March 2002 and requested the NRC staff's views regarding whether it could be acted on by December 2002.

The NRC staff identified a need for information on Duke's use of the RACKLIFE and BADGER programs. This informational need is similar to that identified for other licensees but is specific to Duke's use for the McGuire plant. See, for example, the request for additional information from the NRC staff to Entergy Nuclear Operations, for the Indian Point Unit 2 plant dated November 30, 2001. The staff suggested that one beneficial approach to this issue could be for Duke to prepare a presentation on this issue and meet with the staff again early in 2002.

Subject to the resolution of these additional information needs for RACKLIFE and BADGER, the staff indicated that it is likely that the staff could reach a finding on an application submitted in March 2002 by December 2002, which is Duke's indicated date of need for a finding.

*/RA/*

Robert E. Martin, Senior Project Manager, Section 2  
Project Directorate II  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-369 and 50-370

Attachments: 1. Attendance List  
2. Duke Presentation

cc w/atts: See next page

January 9, 2002

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***/RA/***

Robert E. Martin, Senior Project Manager, Section 2  
Project Directorate II  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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DATE	1/9/02	1/7/02	1/9/02	1/4/02

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ATTENDEES LIST

DECEMBER 11, 2001

MEETING WITH DUKE ENERGY

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Brian Thomas	NRC/SPLB
Steven Jones	NRC/SPLB
Jimmy Glenn	Duke/McG Engineering
David Jones	Duke/SFP Management
Keith Waldrop	Duke/SFP Management
Marcus Nichol	Duke/SFP Management
Norman Simms	Duke/McG Reg Compliance
Craig Harbuck	NRC/RTSB
Tony Attard	NRC/SRXB
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McGuire Nuclear Station

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