

From: Jack Guttman -NMSS
To: internet:strangj@ntsb.gov
Date: Wed, Apr 10, 2002 11:50 AM
Subject: Meeting with Commissioner Merrifield

Jo,

While you were away, Commissioner Merrifield requested us to brief him on the status of our activities to assess the consequences of a spent fuel cask experiencing the thermal conditions that existed in the Baltimore Tunnel Fire Accident.

In a report to the Commission, we indicated that we were awaiting on the NTSB report to obtain the temperature distribution within the tunnel. Commissioner Merrifield, therefore, requested a briefing by NTSB. This message was transmitted to Mr. Chipkevich's office.

We (NRC staff) met with Commissioner Merrifield and were able to respond to his questions.

We informed Commissioner Merrifield that, initially, we were told that your report on the Baltimore Tunnel Fire Accident would address temperature profiles within the tunnel at the hottest location. Subsequently, we were informed that your report would not include such information. With help, recommendations and cooperation from your staff, we contracted with NIST to perform such assessments. Jay Kivowitz and my staff continue to interact with NIST on routine bases and we sincerely appreciate such cooperation. The analytic models developed by NIST are being provided to Jay, as well.

Our meeting with Commissioner Merrifield went well. At the end of the meeting, he informed us that since we are no longer relying on the NTSB report for our analyses, a briefing by NTSB would not be needed, unless you have some new information that would be of interest to the Commissioner.

Both our staff are continuing to work on this issue and, again, we appreciate this close cooperation.

Please convey to Mr. Chipkevich that Commissioner Merrifield is no longer in need of the briefing, unless you have some new information of interest.

If situations change, I will let you know.

Hope your trip went well.

Jack.
(301) 415-8510

Consequently, Commissioner Merrifield

CC: Bajwa, Christopher; Hodges, M. Wayne; Kivowitz, Jay

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