



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

50-29, 50-213,
50-528/529/530
71-9235, 71-9270
72-1015, 72-1025

August 16, 1999

Mr. Thomas C. Thompson, Director
Licensing & Competitive Assessment
NAC International, Inc.
655 Engineering Drive
Norcross, GA 30092

**SUBJECT: REVIEW SCHEDULES FOR THE NAC-UMS STORAGE AND
TRANSPORTATION CASK APPLICATIONS (TAC NOS. L22511& L22452)**

Dear Mr. Thompson:

The purpose of this letter is to confirm the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) understanding of the July 28, 1999, conference call with NAC International, Inc. (NAC) regarding the review schedules for the NAC-UMS storage and transportation cask applications. As you are aware, a published schedule regarding the NAC dual-purpose cask system reviews was issued on July 27, 1998. To date, the staff has completed all milestones in accordance with that schedule and is currently working to complete the next milestone, issuance of a request for additional information (RAI) regarding the NAC-UMS transport application.

In a meeting with the staff on July 7, 1999, Maine Yankee proposed a desired licensing schedule for the staff's review of their non-standard fuel as contents in the NAC-UMS storage cask. Maine Yankee's desired schedule results in a preliminary safety evaluation report for the non-standard fuel application in December 1999 and the completion of a direct-final rulemaking in July 2000. On July 16, 1999, NAC submitted a revised safety analysis report for the NAC-UMS storage application which incorporates Maine Yankee's non-standard fuel as contents. NAC requested that the NRC complete the technical review on an expedited and priority basis based on Maine Yankee's schedule needs to support decommissioning. Also, on July 19, 1999, NAC requested an exemption to 10 CFR 72.234(c) to allow fabrication of NAC-UMS storage system components to support the start of loading operations at Maine Yankee, currently scheduled for April 2001.

It is our understanding, based on the July 28, 1999, conference call, that NAC's first priority is to complete the NAC-UMS storage review, which does not include the Maine Yankee non-standard fuel, as currently scheduled. Additionally, after reviewing the staff's NAC-UMS transport RAI, NAC intends to inform the staff in writing by mid-September 1999, of NAC's anticipated RAI response date and desired prioritization for continuation of the transport review. Such prioritization should include consideration of the Maine Yankee non-standard fuel NAC-UMS storage application and any other anticipated dual-purpose applications (e.g., Connecticut Yankee NAC-MPC and NAC-STC applications).

Considering that NAC's first priority is to complete the ongoing NAC-UMS storage review, and given the uncertainties of the NAC-UMS transport RAI's (and other potential dual-purpose applications) on your future priorities, we do not know if we can support a Maine Yankee non-standard fuel review schedule that would result in approval for storage by April 2001. There are limits on our available staff resources to conduct technical reviews, respond to public comments in the rulemaking process, and carry out our various other responsibilities. Additionally, the viability of using the direct-final rulemaking process for storage cask amendments remains to

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be determined. It is therefore imperative, to allow us to develop a reliable schedule that encompasses all of your known dual-purpose cask licensing submittals, that you communicate to us a comprehensive prioritization listing.

At this time, the staff intends to continue the reviews of the NAC-UMS dual-purpose applications as scheduled. A revised schedule to address those NAC dual-purpose cask reviews that are not captured on the current schedule will be issued by mid-October 1999, pending the receipt of NAC's letter indicating the desired prioritization of such reviews.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, I can be reached at (301) 415-8580.

Sincerely,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY /s/]

Timothy J. McGinty, Project Manager
Spent Fuel Licensing Section
Spent Fuel Project Office
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket Nos.: 50-029, 50-213, 50-528/529/530
71-9235, 71-9270
72-1015, 72-1025

cc: Mr. Len Tremblay
Yankee Atomic Electric Company

Mr. Scott Bauer
Arizona Public Service Company

Mr. George Zinke
Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company

Mr. Michael Meisner
Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company

Mr. Paul Bemis
Stone and Webster Eng. & Construction

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