

September 15, 1999

Mr. Timothy J. McGinty, Project Manager
Spent Fuel Projects Office
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852-2738

Dear Mr. McGinty:

Subject: Priorities for NRC Review of Current NAC-UMS[®] Applications

- Reference:**
1. Letter, Review Schedule for the NAC-UMS[®] Storage and Transportation Cask Applications (TAC Nos. L22511 & L22452), U. S. NRC, August 16, 1999
 2. Letter, Review Schedule for the NAC-UMS[®] Storage and Transportation Cask Applications (TAC Nos. L22511 & L22452), NAC International, August 19, 1999

This letter provides NAC International's (NAC) requested prioritization of NRC reviews of current NAC-UMS[®] spent fuel storage and transport (dual-purpose) applications. This fulfills NAC's commitment to provide such prioritization in response to the NRC's request in Reference No. 1. With this requested prioritization, NAC anticipates that the NRC can provide the necessary allocation of resources to support the NAC and Maine Yankee schedules and that the NRC will provide its revised licensing review schedule in the very near future.

NAC's first priority with respect to achieving NRC review and approval is the NAC-UMS[®] storage application (TAC No. L22511) for standard fuel. The preliminary SER and draft CoC are scheduled to be issued no later than November 1, 1999.

NAC's second priority for NRC review and approval is the Maine Yankee Non-Standard Fuel Amendment to the NAC-UMS[®] storage application, which was submitted for review by the NRC on July 16, 1999.

To make these priorities possible, NAC is prepared to adjust the priority of the NAC-UMS[®] Universal Transport Cask application review and certification (TAC No. L22452). Therefore, NAC requests that the NRC defer its review of the NAC-UMS[®] transport application, in preference for accomplishing NAC's first two priorities in a timely manner. As discussed in Reference No. 2, NAC does this with the understanding that the NRC intends to apply its resources to meet the critical Maine Yankee decommissioning schedule. As was presented during the July 7, 1999, meeting and discussed during a subsequent July 28, 1999, telecon, NAC

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requests that the Maine Yankee Non-Standard Fuel application review be completed by December 1999, based on its limited scope. NAC will fully devote its resources to supporting the NRC review of the first two priorities to accomplish timely NRC approval. Based on NAC's expectation of a limited number of review comments from the Maine Yankee Non-Standard Fuel review, NAC should be able to provide appropriate responses within 30-45 days of the issuance of NRC comments.

In completing the storage submittal review, a number of Maine Yankee non-standard fuel storage issues will be resolved, which may subsequently need to be addressed for the transport condition in our responses to the NAC-UMS[®] transport SAR RAI-1. Consequently, NAC will defer responding to the NAC-UMS[®] transport SAR RAI-1 until the resolution of all storage issues makes a thorough and complete transport response certain. However, NAC will ensure appropriate review and consideration of NAC-UMS[®] Universal Transport Cask SAR RAI-1 comments with respect to Maine Yankee Non-Standard Fuel issues.

These represent the current NAC-UMS[®] licensing applications and NAC's requested priorities. With respect to other technologies such as the NAC-MPC, NAC will keep the NRC fully informed and apprised of our customers' needs and desires for timely NRC review of new submittals or amendments, when we are in a contractual position to do so. To that end, NAC will provide NRC with a written update on any such anticipated needs on or before November 15, 1999.

If you have any questions, please contact Steve Whitsett or me at (770) 447-1144.

Sincerely,



Thomas C. Thompson
Director, Licensing & Competitive Assessment
Engineering & Design Services