

From: Mark Kirk , RES
To: Steven Long
Date: 8/12/02 5:38PM
Subject: Some comments

Rel .

Steve -

I'm sorry i have not gotten further with this, but i just got back from travel today, and i am off tomorrow on business, and the next day on family business ... and back in on Thursday. In any event, a couple of things.

1. Attached please find my comments so far ... i have only gotten as far as the equation on p. 3. Please understand that these are my comments only, and that Nilesh is in the process of making sure that you get a consolidated set of comments from all of RES on your letter. I wanted to pass them on to you at this very early stage because there seem to be a few misunderstandings regarding what uncertainties are represented in the ORNL analysis, and how they are represented. Hopefully my comments can help clear these misunderstandings up.

2. Attached also please find a more recent revision of the ORNL report. I want to call your attention to the fact that the failure probabilities for the "as found" condition have changed in this report ... in the upward direction. The reason that the numbers went up (relative to those we previously reported in the 7-15-02 version of the report) is that Paul Williams (ORNL) did a more comprehensive job of fitting the burst disk results. I should also point out that you should not consider the attached version final either (very sorry about that). After discussing this report with Paul and Richard (Bass) we reached the mutual conclusion that using only one probability distribution to represent these failure data at very low failure probabilities creates the impression that we know more than we really do. In any event Paul is (as i type) preparing a comparison of the lower tails of ALL the distributions that cannot be rejected on a statistical basis. I'm not entirely sure what this will tell us ... but i'm hoping it provides some better perspective on the "model uncertainty" associated with adopting a particular statistical fit to the burst disk data.

3. As i said in item #1, Nilesh is trying to get you a consolidated set of comments from all of RES. As Mike Johnson's e-mail of this morning (attached) only provided an "as soon as you can" deadline we are currently unsure of what your actual timeframe is. If you could communicate this with Nilesh it would be most helpful to us. Unfortunately i cannot make your meeting tomorrow as i will be in Florida with Jack Grobe talking about (you guessed it) Davis Besse to ANS!

Good luck,

Mark

CC: Nilesh Chokshi; Wallace Norris; William Cullen

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