

August 05, 2004

MEMORANDUM TO: Larry Camper, Deputy Director
Licensing and Inspection Directorate
Spent Fuel Project Office, NMSS

THRU: John D. Monninger, Chief /RA/
Licensing Section
Licensing and Inspection Directorate
Spent Fuel Project Office, NMSS

FROM: Christopher M. Regan, Project Manager /RA/
Licensing Section
Licensing and Inspection Directorate
Spent Fuel Project Office, NMSS

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF JUNE 23, 2004, GENERAL ELECTRIC MORRIS
OPERATION ISFSI NRC SITE VISIT (TAC NO. L23091)

On June 23, 2004, NRC staff from the Spent Fuel Project Office and their technical assistance contractors from Advanced Technologies and Laboratories International, Inc. (ATL), visited the General Electric Morris Operation (GEMO) facility and met with GEMO staff in Morris, Illinois. The purpose of the visit was to provide feedback on the proposed revisions to the GEMO current licensing basis and Technical Specifications (TS) prior to GEMO's official submittal, as Amendment 12 to the GEMO ISFSI license, to the NRC later in July 2004. This proposed license amendment request is in support of the ongoing review of the license renewal application submitted by GEMO in May, 2000. At the visit was Christopher Regan, NRC GEMO Project Manager, Mark Orr, ATL Senior Program Manager, Abe Zeitoun ATL Senior Environmental Engineer, Chris Monetta, Manager, GE Nuclear Energy, EH&S, Jim Ellis, Manager, GE Morris Operation, and Ed Secko, GE Morris Operation Regulatory Compliance Manager.

The NRC and support staff began the visit with an introductory comment by Mr. Regan explaining why the NRC had asked for the site visit. Mr. Secko provided copies of the proposed revisions to the GEMO license TS, Consolidated Safety Analysis Report (CSAR), and supporting information. During the visit he also asked about the merits of issuing a completely new CSAR versus issuing revision pages for the current document. Mr. Regan indicated that a new CSAR would be preferred to enable a more expedient NRC review and to avoid confusion with prior submittals that have since been withdrawn, and that to reduce the reproduction costs for GEMO that submittal via electronic format on compact disk would be acceptable. The final decision on how to submit the information was ultimately up to GEMO.

Mr. Monetta and Mr. Ellis explained GE's reasoning behind the proposed revisions to the TS and CSAR and told the NRC that a fuel pool cooling test had been underway for the past 49 days to provide direct evidence of the safety of the existing fuel storage system.

Testing of the pool cooling and filtration system included a complete shutdown of the pool circulating and cooling system and careful monitoring of the water chemistry and temperature. GEMO intends to use the empirical results of the experiment to demonstrate that the pool temperature, level, and water chemistry will not approach TS limits for many weeks and that the pool cooling and ventilation system and portions of the water filtration system need not be considered part of the structures, systems, and components necessary for the safe operation of the facility. Therefore GEMO feels it appropriate to remove these components from the licensing basis as described in the proposed Amendment 12 license TS and CSAR revisions.

The NRC spent most of the day reviewing the information provided by Mr. Secko and discussing the plant facilities. The NRC and support staff met with the GEMO staff at about 4:30 p.m. to comment on the materials presented during the visit and to provide some feedback that might assist GEMO in the submittal of a complete Amendment 12 application.

The NRC staff and contractors departed the facility at 6:30 p.m.

Testing of the pool cooling and filtration system included a complete shutdown of the pool circulating and cooling system and careful monitoring of the water chemistry and temperature. GEMO intends to use the empirical results of the experiment to demonstrate that the pool temperature, level, and water chemistry will not approach TS limits for many weeks and that the pool cooling and ventilation system and portions of the water filtration system need not be considered part of the structures, systems, and components necessary for the safe operation of the facility. Therefore GEMO feels it appropriate to remove these components from the licensing basis as described in the proposed Amendment 12 license TS and CSAR revisions.

The NRC spent most of the day reviewing the information provided by Mr. Secko and discussing the plant facilities. The NRC and support staff met with the GEMO staff at about 4:30 p.m. to comment on the materials presented during the visit and to provide some feedback that might assist GEMO in the submittal of a complete Amendment 12 application.

The NRC staff and contractors departed the facility at 6:30 p.m.

DISTRIBUTION:

NRC File Center	Public	PHarris	LCamper	JGuttmann
EEaston	RLewis	BJorgensen, RIII	KHardin	Jpiotter
MOrr ATL				

E:\Filenet\ML042180459.WPD *See Previous Concurrence ML042180459

OFC:	SFPO	C	SFPO	C	SFPO				
NAME:	CRegan*		EZiegler*		JMonninger				
DATE:	7/ 8 /04		7/ 8 /04		8/ 05 /04				

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY