

January 6, 2006

Ms. Tara Neider
Senior Vice President of Engineering
Transnuclear, Inc.
7135 Minstrel Way
Columbia, MD 21045

SUBJECT: TRANSNUCLEAR STRUCTURAL CORRECTIVE ACTION REVIEW
DOCKET NOS. 71-0250 AND 72-1030

Dear Ms. Neider:

I am responding to your letter dated September 30, 2005, to Mr. Joseph Sebrosky, regarding the issues identified by the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff related to the structural evaluation of fuel rods to demonstrate cladding integrity during drop evaluations. Your letter explains that Transnuclear, Inc. (TN) initiated a Correction Action Report, identified corrective actions, and performed a root cause evaluation resulting in additional corrective actions.

Based on staff review of the corrective actions described in your September 30 letter, it is NRC's assessment that the letter describes identified causes and corrective actions that could be extended to consider and address broader generic issues. Therefore, the NRC plans to perform a focused inspection to independently review the issues related to the structural evaluation errors and to further assess the adequacy of TN's corrective action program in addressing the issue. The team leader for the inspection will soon contact Mr. White of your staff to schedule the inspection.

If you have any questions, please contact me on 301-415-8500.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Robert J. Lewis, Chief
Transportation and Storage Safety
and Inspection Section
Spent Fuel Project Office
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket Nos: 71-0250 and 72-1030

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