

April 17, 2006

The Honorable Ralph M. Hall
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is publishing a direct final rule in the *Federal Register* that will amend the "List of approved spent fuel storage casks" (10 CFR 72.214). NRC is approving the revision of the BNG Fuel Solutions Corporation (FuelSolutions™) (as amended) cask system, for storage of spent fuel, under the new conditions specified in the revised Certificate of Compliance (CoC). This amendment will revise the Technical Specification (TS) requirements related to periodic monitoring during storage operation. Specifically, the amendment will revise the TS to permit longer surveillance intervals for casks with heat loads lower than the design-basis heat load and permit visual inspection of the cask-vent screens or measurement of the cask-liner temperature, to satisfy the periodic monitoring requirements that govern general design criteria for spent fuel storage casks. TS 3.3.1 will be deleted, to remove daily monitoring requirements. TS 3.3.2 will be revised for the W21 and W74 canisters, to permit either visual inspection of vent screens or liner-thermocouple temperature monitoring. Also, TS 5.3.8 will add a section to the Periodic Monitoring Program, which establishes intervals for periodic monitoring that are less than the time required to reach the limiting short-term temperature limit. This program will establish administrative controls and procedures to assure that the licensee will be able to determine when corrective action is required. In addition, the amendment will update editorial changes associated with the company name change from BNFL Fuel Solutions Corporation to BNG Fuel Solutions Corporation, and make other administrative changes.

The FuelSolutions™ cask system, as amended, when used in accordance with the conditions specified in the CoC and NRC regulations, will meet the requirements of 10 CFR Part 72; thus, adequate protection of public health and safety is ensured. This cask system will continue to allow holders of power-reactor operating licenses to store spent fuel in the cask system under a general license.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Rebecca L. Schmidt, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:
Federal Register notice

cc: Representative Rick Boucher

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Identical Letter sent to The Honorable George V. Voinovich with cc: to Senator Thomas Carper

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Section Leader

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April 17, 2006

The Honorable George V. Voinovich
Chairman, Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate Change,
and Nuclear Safety
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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