

Mr. Edward Fuller, President and  
Chief Executive Officer  
Sierra Nuclear Corporation  
One Victor Square  
Scotts Valley, CA 95066

June 16, 1998

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT NO. 72-1007/98-202

Dear Mr. Fuller:

On March 17-20, 1998, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) performed an announced inspection at the Arkansas Nuclear One (ANO) nuclear power plant in Russellville, Arkansas. The purpose of the inspection was to assess the feasibility of volumetrically examining, via ultrasonic testing (UT), the structural-lid closure weld on the multi-assembly sealed basket (MSB) for the Ventilated Storage Cask (VSC)-24 dry spent fuel storage system manufactured under Certificate of Compliance No. 72-1007.

This inspection was continued on April 20-24, 1998, at the Palisades Plant in Covert, Michigan. NRC held an exit meeting on April 24, 1998, at Palisades. On May 14, 1998, NRC conducted a telephone conference call to provide observations on a document submitted May 1, 1998. On June 12, 1998, Sierra Nuclear Corporation submitted a revised document in response to NRC's observations. The enclosed inspection report presents the details of that inspection.

The team observed a successful demonstration of a UT technique to examine the structural-lid closure weld on a mockup of the MSB. This demonstration confirmed the feasibility of safely examining the structural-lid weld for future loading operations and for previously loaded MSBs. Actions by the VSC-24 Owners Group to standardize the UT process provided a good basis to ensure consistent, reliable, and accurate examinations of VSC-24 casks at all sites. Enlistment of the Electric Power Research Institute Non-Destructive Examination Center to independently administer the UT personnel qualification program was a good initiative by the VSC-24 Owners Group.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.797 of NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Sincerely,

Original /s/ by

William F. Kane, Director  
Spent Fuel Project Office  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

Enclosure: Inspection Report 72-1007/98-202

Docket No. 72-1007

cc:  
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VSC-24 Owners Group

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VSC-24 Owners Group

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