

May 8, 2006

MEMORANDUM TO: E. William Brach, Director
Spent Fuel Project Office, NMSS

FROM: M. Wayne Hodges, Deputy Director /RA/
Technical Review Directorate
Spent Fuel Project Office, NMSS

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF INTERIM STAFF GUIDANCE MEMORANDUM NO. 22,
"POTENTIAL ROD SPLITTING DUE TO EXPOSURE TO AN OXIDIZING
ATMOSPHERE DURING SHORT-TERM CASK LOADING
OPERATIONS IN LWR OR OTHER URANIUM OXIDE BASED FUEL"

Attached is Interim Staff Guidance (ISG) No. 22, "Potential Rod Splitting Due to Exposure to an Oxidizing Atmosphere During Short-term Cask Loading Operations in LWR or Other Uranium Oxide Based Fuel," for your approval. This ISG provides guidance on the assessment and avoidance of the formation of gross breaches during the cask draining or blowdown operation prior to lid welding.

This ISG will be used in conjunction with all the current Standard Review Plans (SRPs) related to storage and transportation reviews until such time as this ISG is incorporated into the SRPs.

This ISG has been reviewed by the Spent Fuel Project Office staff and the Technical Review, Licensing, and Inspection section supervisors, as well as published in draft for public comments. Responses to the comments received from the public have been developed and will be posted on the NRC website in conjunction with the release of the ISG. The responses are included for your approval. All comments received have been dispositioned; therefore, we recommend that this ISG be approved.

Enclosures: 1. ISG No. 22
2. Responses to Public Comments

CONTACT: Robert Einziger, NMSS/SFPO
301-415-2597

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