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From: Mike Billone <billone@anl.gov>
To: "Harold Scott (Harold Scott)" <hhs@nrc.gov>, "Ralph Meyer (Ralph Meyer)" <rom@nrc.gov>
Date: 1/17/06 11:42AM
Subject: Plan for Continued Work

Dear Ralph and Harold,

I am working both sides these days: encouraging NRC to put pressure on DOE and ANL to allow some low-risk programmatic activity in the AGHCF (sectioning, defueling, metallography, microhardness), and writing the plan for ANL upper management approval for continuing much of our LOCA and SNF work in ANL non-nuclear facilities and outsourcing fuels work we can no longer do.

In any case, my "path forward" plan has been approved at the Division level (Poeppel) and at the Associate Laboratory Director (ALD Deputy Phillip Finck, soon to become ALD). Lab Director Rosner and his Deputy Director Don Joyce are being informed about the plan today and it will be presented to him on Friday for his concurrence.

I have been asked by Phillip Finck to inform you that we do have such a plan and the Lab would like to discuss it with you as soon as possible after this Friday.

Of course, any time you want to see it, just ask. I was asked to write the plan assuming that the AGHCF remains off limits to programmatic work. This means no LOCA integral tests and no SNF bending and/or impact tests with fueled cladding.

The plan is weak in two areas:

where do we get additional defueled high-burnup cladding samples to complete the LOCA, mech. prop. and SNF test matrices?

how and where do we recover our current capability of doing metallography and microhardness of high-burnup cladding samples?

Assuming NRC asks for full use of the AGHCF to finish its work and the answer comes back "no", please keep this fall-back position in mind. The defueling, metallography and microhardness are very low-risk activities and essential to my path forward. We have other controlled-area space in which we could do the metallography-microhardness, but most new or used (10 years old) optical microscopes are not designed for imaging highly irradiated samples.

Mike

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