

**From:** Mike Billone <billone@anl.gov> *RES*  
**To:** 'Ralph Meyer' <ROM@nrc.gov>  
**Date:** 2/9/06 9:27AM  
**Subject:** RE: Draft Letter

Dear Ralph,

Thank you for composing "the letter". I have to hold off on broader communications with Rosner and Joyce until after I get written confirmation (email from Joyce to The Admiral due tomorrow) that we will accept the M5 rods. I just barely got up the nerve to send two emails to Rosner and Joyce yesterday evening regarding the acceptance of the 4 M5 rods and when I can share this decision with NRC.

F-wing corridor looks like Beruit today and tomorrow -- hard hats, safety glasses, work boots required -- so I am trapped in my office. I changed my mind about competing for the EPRI-Framatome project after I heard on yesterday's conference phone call how little ORNL can do in the area of mechanical properties: basically room temperature full-tube-cross-section-axial and compressed-plug-hoop tests, no ability to cut gauge sections, etc. Of course, Studsvik can do all of the tests, and I would support sending the defueled M5 samples to them to do all of the axial, ring, creep, and burst tests or the ones we may not be able to do. Someone at F-ANP is dreaming if they think that ORNL is the answer to replacing ANL in LOCA and mechanical-properties testing with high-burnup cladding.

Mike

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Ralph Meyer [mailto:ROM@nrc.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 09, 2006 7:47 AM  
**To:** billone@anl.gov  
**Subject:** Draft Letter

Mike,

Here is my idea of a perfect letter from Rosner. Hope you find it helpful.

Ralph

P.S. The latter part of the opening paragraph are Rosner's words from his e-mail.

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Carl J. Paperiello, Director  
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Dr. Paperiello:

In reply to your letter of January 24, 2006, I am pleased to say that we have found a way to complete the NRC work you described while coming into full compliance with all of the DOE's safety – and, more specifically, nuclear safety – requirements.

First, we found that about 80% of the NRC work being done in the Alpha-Gamma-Hot-Cell Facility (AGHCF) could be moved to the Irradiated Materials Laboratory (IML), which is not a nuclear facility. That move has been largely completed, and NRC work that had been stalled since last summer has now resumed.

Second, we have agreed to accept four M5-clad fuel rods into the AGHCF. These rods, which are to be shared by NRC and industry research programs, are now at the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) and will be shipped to us this summer.

Third, we will make arrangements for defueling of the M5-clad rods, and any other rods needed for NRC's program, at another laboratory. This will let us finish the work that is needed to come into compliance with DOE requirements in the AGHCF without interference from programmatic work, and it will facilitate the full scope of NRC work that can be performed in the IML here at Argonne.

Finally, it is our intent to do the remaining 20% of NRC's work in the AGHCF after it has been brought into full compliance with all of the DOE's requirements. This will take additional time, however, so we are targeting this work for fiscal year 2008.

Although these arrangements may alter intermediate schedules for NRC's program, the end point is consistent with your overall plans.

Argonne National Laboratory is pleased to be a part of NRC's effort to ensure the safety of 103 operating reactors in the U.S. and to prepare for ultimate disposal of their spent fuel.

Sincerely,

Robert Rosner, Director