

June 7, 2006

Mr. R. T. Ridenoure  
Vice President - Chief Nuclear Officer  
Omaha Public Power District  
Fort Calhoun Station FC-2-4 Adm.  
Post Office Box 550  
Fort Calhoun, NE 68023-0550

SUBJECT: FORT CALHOUN STATION, UNIT NO. 1 - PENDING 10 CFR 72.7 EXEMPTION  
REQUEST FOR LOADING SPENT FUEL IN DRY-SHIELDED CANISTERS

Dear Mr. Ridenoure:

I am writing to document our understanding of your plans to seek regulatory approval from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for a proposed exemption under provisions of 10 CFR 72.7. If approved, an exemption would allow you to load spent nuclear fuel in four dry shielded canisters using a light weight transfer cask design. You first discussed this matter with the NRC on February 27, 2006, when you advised that Omaha Public Power District (OPPD) planned to use the Standardized NUHOMS® 32PT dry shielded canisters with a Transnuclear light weight transfer cask at the Fort Calhoun Station (FCS). We understand the important role that this cask loading campaign plays in completing your upcoming outage.

Over the past two months there have been significant interactions between NRC and OPPD staff, management, and contractors related to cask loading because of the need for FCS to examine options to accommodate its 75 ton capacity crane. In a public meeting, on May 24, 2006, your staff discussed a draft exemption request which you intend to submit to support the use of the light weight transfer cask. In telephone discussions with NRC management on June 1 and 2, 2006, you indicated that you intend to submit the exemption request on or about June 9, 2006. You indicated that the scope of your exemption request will be limited to loading four dry shielded canisters with a heat load of approximately 10-12 kilowatts per canister. In our June 2 discussion and during previous conversations with NRC management, we explained the importance of NRC's exemption review process elements and that exemption processing typically takes several months. In response, you committed to submit a complete, high quality exemption request, covering the scope described above. Although we intend to give high priority to this review, a high quality submittal is essential for the NRC to complete its technical review of the proposed exemption. After we complete our acceptance review of your submittal, we will establish a schedule.

R. Ridenoure

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We trust this letter affirms, for you, our understanding of your plans, and reflects our staffs' interactions on this matter. If you have any questions about this matter, please call me at (301) 415-7800, or Mr. Bill Brach, Director, Spent Fuel Project Office, at (301) 415-8500.

Sincerely,

***/RA By M. Federline Acting For/***

Jack R. Strosnider, Director  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

Docket Nos: 72-54, 50-285

cc: Service List

R. Ridenoure

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| <b>DATE:</b> | 06/06/06  |   | 06/05/06        |  | 06/06/06 |   | 06/06/06 |  | 06/06/06      |  |

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| <b>DATE:</b> | 06/06/06 |   | 06/06/06            |  | 06/07/06                    |  |  |  |  |  |

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Ft. Calhoun Station, Unit 1 Service List

cc:

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