

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

May 1, 1997

Document Control Desk
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Subject: Docket No. 72-21

Dear Sir/Madam:

Enclosed is one (1) copy of Revision 0 of the Department of Energy's (DOE) Centralized Interim Storage Facility (CISF) Topical Safety Analysis Report (TSAR), dated May 1, 1997. An additional fifteen (15) copies of the TSAR, along with three copies of full-sized drawings, are being provided to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) Mr. William F. Kane, Director of the Spent Fuel Project Office, to assist the staff in its review. This submittal contains no proprietary information.

The purpose of this submittal is to provide technical information on the CISF design and operations. This information is intended to support the staff's safety evaluation of the CISF with respect to the requirements contained in 10 CFR Part 72 and other applicable NRC regulations. We request that, following the staff's review, the staff issue a safety evaluation for the proposed facility design and operations in the form of a Safety Evaluation Report (SER) which, along with the final version of the TSAR, can be referenced in any subsequent application for a Part 72 license.

DOE's intent to submit such a topical report in May of 1997 was transmitted to Dr. William Travers, then-Director of the NRC's Spent Fuel Project Office, in a June 4, 1996, letter from Mr. Ronald Milner, then-Director of the Office of Program Management and Integration within DOE's Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management. As stated in Mr. Milner's June 4, 1996, letter of intent to submit the CISF TSAR, we believe that submittal of the TSAR and its subsequent review by the NRC staff, ahead of any site designation, will reduce the time required later for preparation of any license application and reduce subsequent licensing risks related to design and safety considerations.

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As stated in pre-submittal consultations with the NRC staff, we have followed the format guidance contained in draft NUREG-1567, with only minor modifications, in developing the format of the TSAR. We have followed the content guidance provided in Regulatory Guide 3.48, as augmented by additional content guidance contained in draft NUREG-1567.

In response to feedback obtained from the NRC staff during our pre-submittal consultation meetings, we have upgraded the level of the design basis tornado to the maximum specified in Regulatory Guide 1.76; added a HEPA filter to the HVAC system train with provisions for

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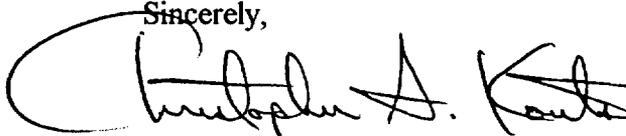
manual, as well as automatic, actuation; and included a commitment in the TSAR to include an on-site dry transfer capability for enhanced recovery purposes to be operational coincident with initiation of spent fuel receipt at the CISF. The proposed design and operations of the on-site dry transfer system will be presented in the license application.

In addition, we are prepared to support the NRC staff's timely review of this TSAR by providing expeditious and thorough responses to any and all NRC requests for additional information and also by meeting promptly with the staff upon request. Based on the above considerations, we respectfully request that the SER be issued by the end of FY 1998.

To assist us in supporting the NRC staff's review, we will continue to rely on assistance from our M&O contractor, TRW Environmental Safety Systems, who developed the original CISF design and operations scenario.

Mr. Dan Kane is the licensing manager on Docket 72-21 and will serve as the point of contact for questions on technical and licensing matters. Mr. Kane can be reached at (202) 586-4970.

Sincerely,



Christopher A. Kouts, Director
Storage and Engineering
Technology Division
Office of Waste Acceptance,
Storage, and Transportation
Office of Civilian Radioactive
Waste Management

Enclosure

cc:

W. F. Kane, NRC (15/15 plus 3 full-size drwgs.)

E. Leeds, NRC (1/0)

L. Kokajko, NRC (1/0)