

September 6, 2006

Mr. Mark R. Arenaz, Manager
National Spent Nuclear Fuel Program
Idaho Operations Office
1955 Fremont Avenue
Idaho Falls, ID 83415

Subject: RESPONSE TO A REQUEST FOR A FOLLOW-UP MEETING WITH THE
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION - SPENT FUEL PROJECT OFFICE

Dear Mr. Arenaz:

The purpose of this correspondence is to respond to your July 31, 2006, letter, in which you requested a follow-up meeting with Spent Fuel Project Office (SFPO) staff. In a meeting with SFPO on June 1, 2006, your staff presented the concept of using the Department of Energy (DOE) Standardized Canister as a leak-tight barrier for transporting DOE high-enriched spent fuel assemblies. Your staff indicated that DOE would like to invoke 10 CFR 71.55(c) for "moderator exclusion" based on the use of Standardized Canisters.

Since our first meeting on this subject, SFPO has been examining the concept proposed by DOE. As we indicated in the June 1, 2006, meeting, this proposed leak-tight barrier concept will likely be brought before the Commission for approval.

The SFPO encourages applicants and licensees to meet with us early on potential licensing issues. We believe that another meeting on this subject will be useful. However, as indicated above, first the policy direction needs to be established. I will inform you when the policy decision is made by the NRC, and we can meet at that time.

If you or your staff have any questions on this matter, please call me or Meraj Rahimi, our Project Manager for this review, at 301-415-2947.

Sincerely,

/RA/

E. William Brach, Director
Spent Fuel Project Office
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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