

December 18, 2006

The Honorable Ralph M. Hall
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is publishing a direct final rule, in the *Federal Register*, that will amend the "List of approved spent fuel storage casks" (10 CFR 72.214). NRC is approving the revision of the Holtec International HI-STORM 100 (as amended) cask system, for storage of spent fuel, under the new conditions specified in the revised Certificate of Compliance (CoC). This amendment will revise Technical Specification (TS) 3.1.3, to eliminate cooling of the Multi-Purpose Canister (MPC) cavity before reflood with water, as part of cask unloading operations; TS 3.3.1, to allow linear interpolation between minimal soluble boron concentrations, for certain fuel enrichments in the MPC-32/32F; Appendix B, Section 1, to make modifications to the definitions of fuel debris, damaged fuel assembly, and non-fuel hardware; and Appendix B, Section 2, to permit the storage of pressurized-water-reactor fuel assemblies with annular fuel pellets in the top and bottom 12 inches of the active fuel length. Other changes will be made to incorporate minor editorial corrections.

The HI-STORM 100 cask system, as amended, when used in accordance with the conditions specified in the CoC and NRC regulations, will meet the requirements of 10 CFR Part 72; thus, adequate protection of public health and safety is ensured. This cask system will continue to allow holders of power-reactor operating licenses to store spent fuel in the cask system under a general license.

Sincerely,

/ra/ by Betsy Keeling for:

Rebecca L. Schmidt, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:
Federal Register notice

cc: Representative Rick Boucher

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Original signed by Betsy Keeling for:
Rebecca L. Schmidt, Director
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cc: Representative Rick Boucher

Identical Letter sent to The Honorable George V. Voinovich with cc: to Senator Thomas Carper

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Section Leader

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December 18, 2006

The Honorable George V. Voinovich
Chairman, Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate Change,
and Nuclear Safety
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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