

From: "Rogers, Ronald E." <reroget@nppd.com>
To: "Carl Lyon" <CFL@nrc.gov>
Date: 05/23/2007 2:13:01 PM
Subject: Response to Informal RAI Regarding Spent Fuel Pool Expansion Amendment Request

Fred:

Your e-mail to Dave Van Der Kamp, sent Monday, May 21, 2007, 6:29 PM, stated:

Dave, John Burke (Engineering Mechanics Branch reviewer) requested the following clarification:

Please confirm that
1) for the neutron attenuation testing, in lieu of giving an actual % degradation numerical value, the acceptance criteria will be to perform an evaluation of the actual measured values of neutron absorption and confirm Keff remains less than 0.95.

2) The response to RAI question #2 applies to the coupons as well as the actual metamatic panels.

Based on review by the Corporate project manager and with Reactor Engineering, a response to each of these questions is attached. Please call or e-mail me if any of this is not clear.

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<<Response to NRC e-mail RAI.doc>>

CC: "Van Der Kamp, David" <dwvande@nppd.com>, "Swantz, William L." <wlswant@nppd.com>, "Parkyn, Christine P." <cpparky@nppd.com>

Response to NRC RAI (E-mail sent 5/21/07)

Cooper Nuclear Station, Docket No. 50-298, DPR-46

1. NRC Request

Confirm that for the neutron attenuation testing, in lieu of giving an actual % degradation numerical value, the acceptance criteria will be to perform an evaluation of the actual measured values of neutron absorption and confirm that Keff remains less than 0.95.

NPPD Response

If the neutron attenuation testing revealed degradation, the impact on K-effective would be evaluated. The intent of this evaluation would be to confirm that the value of K-effective for spent fuel storage in the Spent Fuel Pool remains less than 0.95.

2. NRC Request

Confirm that the response to RAI question # 2 applies to the coupons as well as to the actual Metamic panels.

NPPD Response

Each batch of the Metamic panels is tested for neutron attenuation and the chemical certification for the boron carbide as described in the response to RAI question # 2. The coupons are cut by the manufacturer, Metamic LLC, from the actual manufactured lots of Metamic material that were shipped to the Holtec Assembly Facility. The coupons are nominally 4 by 6 inches in size. The coupons initially remain at Metamic, LLC, and are therefore not subjected to the dimensional and visual inspection that the final panels receive as discussed in the last sentence of the response to RAI question # 2.