October 23, 2007

MEMORANDUM TO: Nader Mamish, Director
Licensing and Inspection Directorate
Division of Spent Fuel Storage and Transportation, NMSS

FROM: Stewart W. Brown, Senior Project Manager **/RA/**
Licensing Branch
Division of Spent Fuel Storage and Transportation, NMSS

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF THE OCTOBER 2, 2007, MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM HOLTEC INTERNATIONAL

On October 2, 2007, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff met with representatives from Holtec International (Holtec). Holtec requested this meeting in order to discuss with NRC a concept for justifying an increase in authorized enrichment content for the MPC-68 canister. Holtec noted that the content for its MPC-68 canister is now limited to boiling water reactor (BWR) fuel with a maximum enrichment of 4.2 weight percent. However, the current generation of BWR fuel can have enrichments as high as 4.8 weight percent. Therefore, Holtec is considering an amendment request for a higher enrichment limit for its MPC-68 canister.

Holtec presented its concept of a technical basis to support a request for higher enrichment content limits for the MPC-68 canister in very general terms. Holtec's concept is based on the use of a "k-infinity in standard cold core geometry" (k_∞SCCG). Holtec noted that it designed the spent fuel racks in which ninety percent of the BWR spent fuel is currently stored. Further, Holtec stated that the k_∞SCCG acceptance criteria for these spent fuel pool storage racks at various reactor sites ranged between 1.31 and 1.33. Thus, Holtec contends that because the MPC-68 canister fuel basket design is similar to the design of the spent fuel pool storage racks and the racks have been approved by NRC to store higher enriched BWR fuel, NRC should be able to authorize higher enrichments for the MPC-68 canister using a similar k_∞SCCG range.

Holtec explained that it had not yet developed the details of this proposal, thus the information presented was at the general concept-level. Consequently, the staff was only able to discuss issues related to Holtec's proposal in only the most general terms. The staff did not provide any indication on the acceptability or non-acceptability of Holtec's concept. Holtec stated that it planned to develop its concept and present the details to the staff in a future meeting.

A copy of the list of attendees is enclosed.

Docket No. 72-1014
TAC No. L24127

Enclosures:
1. Meeting handout
2. Meeting attendees

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