

April 15, 2010

Mr. Mark J. Ajluni
Manager – Nuclear Licensing
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
P. O. Box 1295
Birmingham, AL 35201

SUBJECT: EVALUATION OF NON-HELIUM LEAK RATE TEST OF HOLTEC
MULTI-PURPOSE CANISTERS (MPCS)

Dear Mr. Ajluni:

In response to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) conversation record dated December 15, 2009 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML093510008), Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) provided information (ADAMS Accession No. ML100250991) to the NRC specific to Holtec International violation of 10 CFR 72.48 (ADAMS Accession No. ML092470363). According to the information provided by SNC, eight MPCs loaded at the Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Power Plant and four MPCs loaded at the Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Power Plant did not have the required helium leak rate test, to demonstrate that the MPCs were leaktight, performed after fabrication.

The MPCs are required to be leaktight to demonstrate that all thermal and radiological performance requirements can be met under the maximum licensed conditions permitted in the CoC No. 72-1014, Amendment Nos. 2 and 3 for the Holtec HI-STORM 100 Cask System. Your letter provided information related to the thermal loading and radiological monitoring conducted at the Hatch and Farley sites since the affected MPCs were placed into service. The NRC reviewed your information and noted that the site radiological boundary requirements of 10 CFR 72.104 have been met, and no increase in radiological effluents has been detected at either site since the MPCs were placed into service.

In addition, the NRC reviewed the thermal information for the loaded MPCs provided by SNC and has determined that the thermal performance requirements would be met for a postulated helium leak rate consistent with the order of magnitude that would ordinarily be detected by the hydro-static testing that was performed prior to placing the MPC in-service. The NRC considers this thermal analysis to be conservative since the postulated leak rate that could be detected through hydro-static testing is several orders of magnitude greater than what has been reported by Holtec for all previous helium leak rate testing of MPCs. As a result, the NRC has determined that continued use of the loaded MPCs at the Hatch and Farley sites is acceptable, and the NRC does not plan any further action with respect to the continued use of these MPCs.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and your response, if you choose to provide one, will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the NRC's document system ADAMS, accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. To the extent possible, your response should not include any personal privacy, proprietary, or safeguards information so that it can be made available to the public without redaction.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please feel free to contact me at (301) 492-3299.

Sincerely,

/RA/

David W. Pstrak, Chief
Rules, Inspections, and Operations Branch
Division of Spent Fuel Storage and Transportation
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket Nos. 72-36 and 72-42

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NAME	ELove	WWheatley	DPstrak	MRahimi	JWray	APessin	RLorson
DATE	4/7/2010	4/15/2010	4/15/2010	4/ 13/2010	4/7/2010 Via email	NLO 4/15/2010	4/15/2010

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