Crystal River Unit 3
Plant Life Extension

Crystal River Unit 3 has two (2) spent fuel pools. Pool "A" uses a carborundum neutron absorbing material in the spent fuel racks and Pool "B" uses Boral® as the neutron absorber material.

Our concerns are with the degradation of Carborundum neutron absorber material in the "A" pool.

The spent fuel storage racks in the "A" pool were placed in service in 1981 (28 years ago). The Carborundum neutron absorber material had a projected in-service life of 40 – 50 years.

Recent NRC documents state that the Carborundum material has experienced a 15% loss of Boron 10 areal density and the fuel pool criticality analysis has been recalculated with restrictions on spent fuel storage being instituted.

Our questions are:

1. How much degradation of the Carborundum material is allowed before the spent fuel racks must be replaced or modified to permit continued usage of the "A" fuel pool?
2. Is the degradation of the Carborundum material considered a factor in the plant life extension application review?