

Current Issues

Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, Unit Nos. 1 and 2 (HNP)

A. EXPECTED DISCUSSION TOPICS

Special Nuclear Material

SNC could not reconcile a total of about 17 inches of fuel rod after a search of the spent fuel pool. An NRC team inspection final report was issued on November 20, 2006, with an apparent violation of 10 CFR 74.19. A Severity Level II cited violation with a base civil penalty was issued on December 29, 2006. The licensee did not contest the violation and has paid the civil penalty.

Tritium

The licensee discovered tritium in the onsite groundwater sample wells late in 2005. Additional sampling wells have been drilled to a depth of 25 feet around the site to provide a more accurate plume characterization. Sampling frequency of the monitoring wells varies from quarterly to weekly depending on sample results. Preliminary models show the tritium plume to be slightly migrating to the southwest, although the river hydrology is to the northwest. The licensee has also determined that tritium from the reactor building stacks is being scrubbed by rainfall, and deposited into the storm sewer system. In July 2006, a public meeting was held in the Region II office with the licensee to discuss their tritium monitoring program.

Main Control Room Habitability

GL 2003-01, "Control Room Habitability," addressed control room licensing and design issues. The loss-of-coolant accident (LOCA) is the limiting design-basis accident (DBA) for radiological exposures to the operators in the main control room (MCR). The previous HNP licensing basis did not assume any unfiltered inleakage through the control room envelope boundary. Any test measurement that exceeded 0 cfm would not be bounded by the previous HNP licensing basis DBA control room dose analyses. A license amendment issued on May 25, 2006, allows interim credit until May 31, 2010, for the administration of potassium iodide (KI) to enable SNC to remain within its licensing basis for test results of unfiltered inleakage of up to 110 cfm. This was intended to provide time for SNC to implement appropriate design-basis changes to address the impact of any unfiltered inleakage. The NRC staff does not generally allow credit for KI unless it is an interim compensatory measure needed to address a degraded nonconforming condition while corrective actions are being taken. For this amendment, the licensee requested that credit for KI be authorized for up to 4 years to support ASTM E471 tracer gas testing of the main control room and to allow time to implement any design-basis changes to address the impact of control room unfiltered inleakage. The NRC staff considered this justification when reviewing the amount of time that KI could be part of the licensing basis and found it to be acceptable. SNC submitted a license amendment application on August 29, 2006, to address this issue that relies on a full scope alternative source term and also relies on certain non-safety grade structures, systems and components to an extent that may be precedent setting in some respects. If the alternate source term (AST) application is approved, it would render the need for KI moot. The alternate is that, if the AST application is not approved, the licensee must make an alternate proposal, possibly one that involves modification to the plant design. The NRC staff met with the licensee on

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