

May 2, 2012

MEMORANDUM TO: Lawrence E. Kokajko, Director  
Division of Spent Fuel Alternative Strategies  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

FROM: James Rubenstone, Chief */RA/*  
Science Technology Branch  
Division of Spent Fuel Alternative Strategies  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

SUBJECT: ISSUANCE OF DRAFT REPORT ON IDENTIFICATION AND  
PRIORITIZATION OF THE TECHNICAL INFORMATION NEEDS  
AFFECTING POTENTIAL REGULATION OF EXTENDED  
STORAGE AND TRANSPORTATION OF SPENT NUCLEAR  
FUEL

Enclosed for your approval is a draft report that the staff is publishing for public comment. The report is titled, "Identification and Prioritization of the Technical Information Needs Affecting Potential Regulation of Extended Storage and Transportation of Spent Nuclear Fuel."

As directed by the Commission (in SRM-COMSECY-10-0007; December 6, 2010), in expectation of continued use of dry storage for extended periods of time, the NRC staff is examining the technical needs and potential changes to the regulatory framework that may be needed to continue licensing of SNF storage over periods beyond 120 years. This report presents the results of NRC staff evaluation of the technical information needs for continued extended dry storage, and for the subsequent transportation of SNF following long-term storage. Staff's evaluation focuses on the degradation phenomena that may affect dry storage systems, and how these phenomena may affect the ability of the systems to fulfill their regulatory functions.

In order to ensure a transparent and thorough review of the basis for staff research plans, this report is being made available for public comment to a diverse group of stakeholders. The comment period is 45 calendar days, starting May 4, 2012 and ending June 18, 2012. The report will be available on NRC's web site, at: <http://www.nrc.gov/waste/spent-fuel-storage.html>. Comments may be submitted via email to [ESTOutreach@nrc.gov](mailto:ESTOutreach@nrc.gov) or through the U.S mail. Further contact information is provided below.

Enclosure: "Identification and Prioritization of the Technical Information Needs Affecting Potential Regulation of Extended Storage and Transportation of Spent Nuclear Fuel."

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