



NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE

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May 31, 2012

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Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguard
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Subject: Industry plans for standardization of dry storage cask Certificates of Compliance (CoC)

Project Number: 689

Dear Ms. Poole:

The Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI),¹ together with the NEI Dry Cask Vendor Task Force and NEI Dry Storage Task Force, have been working over the past year on an industry effort to identify improvements necessary to achieve greater standardization of the dry storage cask Certificates of Compliance (CoC) issued under 10 CFR Part 72. It is the purpose of this letter to make you aware of industry activities and plans in this area so that these can be reflected in NRC planning.

At our recent Used Nuclear Fuel Management Conference, we presented the industry's standardization plans, which include a potential Petition for Rulemaking. The proposed rule language will articulate format and content criteria that will be supported by industry-generated guidance to be submitted for NRC endorsement. The industry is considering a rulemaking, as we believe inclusion of criteria in the regulations would be the most effective and efficient means to ensure consistency and standardization. A similar approach was successfully taken over 20 years ago to address similar improvements for nuclear plant Technical Specifications issued under 10 CFR Part 50.

¹ NEI is the organization responsible for establishing unified nuclear industry policy on matters affecting the nuclear energy industry. NEI's members include all utilities licensed to operate commercial nuclear power plants in the United States, nuclear plant designers, major architect/engineering firms, fuel fabrication facilities, nuclear material licensees, and other organizations and individuals involved in the nuclear energy industry.

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During the conference, the NRC staff identified an activity to revise NUREG-1745, "Standard Format and Content for Technical Specifications for 10 CFR Part 72 Cask Certificates of Compliance." The NRC presentation² indicated that the staff plans to hold a public meeting on this topic in August of 2012 and plans to issue a draft revision of NUREG-1745 in 2013.

We believe that the industry's proposed approach has the potential to obviate the need to revise NUREG-1745 at this time. We anticipate that industry plans and approach will be sufficiently developed by August to support detailed discussion. As such, we request that the planned August meeting be used instead as an opportunity to discuss the broader range of potential improvements including these plans. Given the common industry and NRC goal of achieving improvements to regulatory efficiency and effectiveness through improved standardization of the CoC, we believe that expanding the dialogue at this meeting is appropriate.

We appreciate the NRC providing this opportunity public input and look forward to the discussion. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Rodney McCullum

c: Mr. Catherine Haney, NMSS, NRC
Mr. Scott W. Moore, NMSS, NRC
Mr. Doug W. Weaver, NMSS/DSFST, NRC
Mr. Steve R. Ruffin, NMSS/DSFST/LB, NRC
NEI Dry Storage Vendor Task Force
NEI Dry Storage Task Force

² ML12136A052