



Nebraska Public Power District

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NLS2012121
November 5, 2012

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attention: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Subject: Data from Metamic Coupon Sampling Program
Cooper Nuclear Station, Docket No. 50-298, DPR-46

Reference: Letter from Stewart B. Minahan, Nebraska Public Power District, to U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, dated April 17, 2007, "Response to Request for Additional Information Regarding License Amendment Request for Onsite Spent Fuel Storage Expansion" (NLS2007012)

Dear Sir or Madam:

The purpose of this letter is for the Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) to provide to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission surveillance data from the Cooper Nuclear Station (CNS) Metamic coupon sampling program. The purpose of the Metamic coupon sampling program is to characterize certain physical and chemical properties of the Metamic sample coupons from the CNS spent fuel storage pool. Per the Reference letter, NPPD committed to remove a Metamic coupon from the spent fuel pool for testing after 2, 4, 8, 12, 16, 20, 24, and 28 years. In addition to measurements and observations of coupon physical characteristics, NPPD stated in the Reference letter that a neutron attenuation test would be performed after 4, 12, and 20 years. This report pertains to the four year test. Two Metamic coupons were removed from the spent fuel pool after four years and provided to Holtec International for testing. The testing results are contained in Enclosure 1. Coupon dimensional and density data is included in Appendix 8.2 of the enclosed report. Neutron attenuation testing results are reported in Table 1 of the enclosed report. The results meet procedural acceptance criteria and the neutron attenuation results indicate no degradation in Boron-10 content.

Enclosure 1 is considered to be proprietary to Holtec International pursuant to 10 CFR 2.390(a)(4). The Holtec affidavit required by 10 CFR 2.390(b)(1) requesting that this report be withheld from public disclosure is provided as Enclosure 2.

ENCLOSURE 1 TO THIS LETTER CONTAINS PROPRIETARY INFORMATION TO BE WITHHELD FROM PUBLIC DISCLOSURE IN ACCORDANCE WITH 10 CFR 2.390(a)(4). UPON SEPARATION FROM ENCLOSURE 1, THIS LETTER IS DECONTROLLED.

COOPER NUCLEAR STATION

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PROPRIETARY INFORMATION - WITHHOLD FROM PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

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Please note that CNS also has a commitment to test Boral coupons as part of License Renewal (Commitment NLS2010019-02). The enclosed report also contains results related to Boral, which are currently being evaluated in the CNS corrective action program. However, this letter does not serve to meet that commitment.

This letter contains no new regulatory commitments.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (402) 825-2904.

Sincerely,



David W. Van Der Kamp
Licensing Manager

/lb

- Enclosures:
1. Holtec International Report No. HI-2125353, Summary Report of the Examination of Cooper Nuclear Station Coupons
 2. Holtec International Affidavit Pursuant to 10 CFR 2.390

cc: Regional Administrator w/enclosure
USNRC Region IV

Cooper Project Manager w/enclosure
USNRC - NRR Project Directorate IV-1

Senior Resident Inspector w/enclosure
USNRC - CNS

NPG Distribution w/o enclosure

CNS Records w/enclosure

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Enclosure 2
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**HOLTEC INTERNATIONAL
AFFIDAVIT PURSUANT TO 10 CFR 2.390**



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Holtec International Document ID 2192-AFFI-1

AFFIDAVIT PURSUANT TO 10 CFR 2.390

I, Richard J. Trotta, being duly sworn, depose and state as follows:

- (1) I have reviewed the information described in paragraph (2) which is sought to be withheld, and am authorized to apply for its withholding.
- (2) The information sought to be withheld is information provided in Holtec Technical Report HI-2125353, Revision 0.
- (3) In making this application for withholding of proprietary information of which it is the owner, Holtec International relies upon the exemption from disclosure set forth in the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 USC Sec. 552(b)(4) and the Trade Secrets Act, 18 USC Sec. 1905, and NRC regulations 10CFR Part 9.17(a)(4), 2.390(a)(4), and 2.390(b)(1) for "trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential" (Exemption 4). The material for which exemption from disclosure is here sought is all "confidential commercial information", and some portions also qualify under the narrower definition of "trade secret", within the meanings assigned to those terms for purposes of FOIA Exemption 4 in, respectively, Critical Mass Energy Project v. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 975F2d871 (DC Cir. 1992), and Public Citizen Health Research Group v. FDA, 704F2d1280 (DC Cir. 1983).

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- (4) Some examples of categories of information which fit into the definition of proprietary information are:
- a. Information that discloses a process, method, or apparatus, including supporting data and analyses, where prevention of its use by Holtec's competitors without license from Holtec International constitutes a competitive economic advantage over other companies;
 - b. Information which, if used by a competitor, would reduce his expenditure of resources or improve his competitive position in the design, manufacture, shipment, installation, assurance of quality, or licensing of a similar product.
 - c. Information which reveals cost or price information, production, capacities, budget levels, or commercial strategies of Holtec International, its customers, or its suppliers;
 - d. Information which reveals aspects of past, present, or future Holtec International customer-funded development plans and programs of potential commercial value to Holtec International;
 - e. Information which discloses patentable subject matter for which it may be desirable to obtain patent protection.

The information sought to be withheld is considered to be proprietary for the reasons set forth in paragraph 4.b, above.

- (5) The information sought to be withheld is being submitted to the NRC in confidence. The information (including that compiled from many sources) is of a sort customarily held in confidence by Holtec International, and is in fact so held. The information sought to be withheld has, to the best of my knowledge and belief, consistently been held in confidence by Holtec International. No public disclosure has been made, and it is not available in public sources. All disclosures to third parties, including any required transmittals to the NRC, have been made, or must be made, pursuant to regulatory provisions or proprietary

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agreements which provide for maintenance of the information in confidence. Its initial designation as proprietary information, and the subsequent steps taken to prevent its unauthorized disclosure, are as set forth in paragraphs (6) and (7) following.

- (6) Initial approval of proprietary treatment of a document is made by the manager of the originating component, the person most likely to be acquainted with the value and sensitivity of the information in relation to industry knowledge. Access to such documents within Holtec International is limited on a "need to know" basis.
- (7) The procedure for approval of external release of such a document typically requires review by the staff manager, project manager, principal scientist or other equivalent authority, by the manager of the cognizant marketing function (or his designee), and by the Legal Operation, for technical content, competitive effect, and determination of the accuracy of the proprietary designation. Disclosures outside Holtec International are limited to regulatory bodies, customers, and potential customers, and their agents, suppliers, and licensees, and others with a legitimate need for the information, and then only in accordance with appropriate regulatory provisions or proprietary agreements.
- (8) The information classified as proprietary was developed and compiled by Holtec International at a significant cost to Holtec International. This information is classified as proprietary because it contains detailed descriptions of analytical approaches and methodologies not available elsewhere. This information would provide other parties, including competitors, with information from Holtec International's technical database and the results of evaluations performed by Holtec International. A substantial effort has been expended by Holtec International to develop this information. Release of this information would improve a competitor's position because it would enable Holtec's competitor to copy our technology and offer it for sale in competition with our company, causing us financial injury.

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- (9) Public disclosure of the information sought to be withheld is likely to cause substantial harm to Holtec International's competitive position and foreclose or reduce the availability of profit-making opportunities. The information is part of Holtec International's comprehensive spent fuel storage technology base, and its commercial value extends beyond the original development cost. The value of the technology base goes beyond the extensive physical database and analytical methodology, and includes development of the expertise to determine and apply the appropriate evaluation process.

The research, development, engineering, and analytical costs comprise a substantial investment of time and money by Holtec International.

The precise value of the expertise to devise an evaluation process and apply the correct analytical methodology is difficult to quantify, but it clearly is substantial.

Holtec International's competitive advantage will be lost if its competitors are able to use the results of the Holtec International experience to normalize or verify their own process or if they are able to claim an equivalent understanding by demonstrating that they can arrive at the same or similar conclusions.

The value of this information to Holtec International would be lost if the information were disclosed to the public. Making such information available to competitors without their having been required to undertake a similar expenditure of resources would unfairly provide competitors with a windfall, and deprive Holtec International of the opportunity to exercise its competitive advantage to seek an adequate return on its large investment in developing these very valuable analytical tools.

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY)
) ss:
COUNTY OF BURLINGTON)

Mr. Richard J. Trotta, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

That she has read the foregoing affidavit and the matters stated therein are true and correct to the best of her knowledge, information, and belief.

Executed at Marlton, New Jersey, this 31st day of October, 2012.



Richard J. Trotta
Holtec International

Subscribed and sworn before me this 31st day of October, 2012.



MARIA C. MASSI
NOTARY PUBLIC OF NEW JERSEY
My Commission Expires April 25, 2015