



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

OCT 19 1992

Ms. Jane Farrell  
639 Dauphin Street  
Greenville Bay, WI 54301

Dear Ms. Farrell:

This letter responds to your September 3, 1992, letter requesting an extension of the public comment period for the proposed rule entitled "List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: Additions." Your request to prepare an environmental impact statement on the use of ventilated storage casks in general and to hold a public hearing in the specific region involved will be addressed in the Federal Register Notice for the final rule along with our consideration of the other public comments.

The basis for your request to extend the public comment period is to allow more time for the review of relevant documents and for the interested public to submit comments. In response, let me first note that the scope of the proposed rule is to add two new casks to Section 72.214 of 10 CFR Part 72. It does not relate to the earlier NRC decision and subsequent amendment to Part 72 which established the general license process to allow onsite dry cask storage. NRC reached that decision on July 18, 1990. Given the more limited nature and scope of this proposed rule and given the fact that NRC recently extended the standard comment period from 60 to 75 days, we believe that the 75-day comment period already provided for review and comment on this proposed rule is ample time to prepare detailed comments. In fact, a relatively large number of comment letters have been received, some of which were very detailed and included in-depth discussions of important technical issues.

These comments are currently being analyzed by the NRC staff as part of the process for reaching a decision on the proposed rule. A written summary of and responses to all comments will be prepared by the NRC staff and will be considered by the Commission prior to reaching a decision on the final rule. A copy of the NRC's response to comments will be available for public review at the time the Commission reaches a decision on the final rule.

Therefore, for the reasons stated above, your request for an extension is denied. However, we desire to provide a full opportunity for interested members of the public to comment on proposed rules and to have the full benefit of public views and concerns in reaching our regulatory decisions. Thus, as stated in the Federal Register Notice announcing the proposed rule for public comment, we will consider comments received after the September 9, 1992, comment closure date if it is practical to do so. Please also note that, as stated in the notice, we cannot always assure consideration of such comments, particularly if they are received well after the close of the comment period and after completion of the NRC staff's response to comments.

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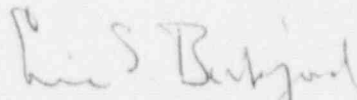
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Ms. Jane Farrell

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I anticipate that the NRC staff's response to comments will be completed in the near future. If you desire to submit additional comments, we would be pleased to receive them and will consider them to the extent it is possible to do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Eric S. Beckjord". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "E".

Eric S. Beckjord, Director  
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

OCT 19 1992

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Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Eric S. Beckjord, Director  
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

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Sincerely,

Eric S. Beckjord, Director  
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

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