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FCTC:CEM
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FEB 27 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Files

FROM: Charles E. MacDonald, Chief
Transportation Certification Branch, FC, NMSS

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MEETING WITH GNS CONCERNING
DROP TEST OF CASTOR-MTR

Attendees

<u>GNS/GNSI</u>	<u>LLNL</u>	<u>NRC</u>
D. Rittscher	C. Chou	C. Chappell
H. Geiser	M. Schwartz	M. Anderson
R. Anderson	M. Witte	H. Graves
P. Highberger		C. MacDonald
J. Migenda		H. Lee

Introduction

At the request of GNSI, a meeting was held at Silver Spring, Maryland, on February 26, 1986, to discuss the test of the CASTOR-MTR.

Discussion

On January 23, 1986, a full-scale CASTOR-MTR cask with an induced flaw was dropped from a height of 9 m onto an unyielding surface and from 1 m onto a 6-inch diameter pin. GNS stated that sectioning of the cask indicated that there was no growth of the induced flaw.

GNSI has provided the NRC with information on the tests and the CASTOR-MTR cask. Much of the information provided, including information on test failures, has been requested to be withheld from public disclosure by GNS. The characteristics of the test cask and the existing casks were discussed. It was noted that except for K_{10} , the test cask appeared to have better characteristics than the other casks. The test cask had better ductility and higher ferritic content than the casks proposed to be used.

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GNS stated their desire to make a shipment by the end of March. GNS was informed that the review had not been scheduled and that March did not seem feasible. The staff noted that it was only January of this year that it learned of failures in previous tests conducted in 1983 of nodular cast iron casks. The staff requested this information from GNS in February 1984. At the time the staff requested information on nodular cast iron casks, it was not aware of the test failures that occurred. The staff indicated that it would have to reassess the basic question of whether nodular cast iron should be used in shipping casks in view of the test failures. It was suggested that GNS may want to supplement the information provided to fully explain the failures and why they are not applicable to the CASTOR-MTR cask.

Original Signed by
CHARLES E. MACDONALD

Charles E. MacDonald, Chief
Transportation Certification Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle and
Material Safety, NMSS

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