

August 28, 1998

Mr. Ronald C. Howard  
Assistant Vice President  
Quality Engineering Services Department  
The Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection  
and Insurance Company  
One State Street  
P.O. Box 5024  
Hartford, Connecticut 06102-5024

Dear Mr. Howard:

I have received your August 21, 1998, letter, in which you express your support for third-party inspection of spent fuel storage cask construction, repairs, alterations, and maintenance. Additionally, you state your support for the standards promulgated under the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), Section III, Division 3.

This topic is under consideration by the staff. As you may know, the staff has met with the Nuclear Energy Institute and other industry representatives in two workshops, held on July 1 and August 25, 1998, to discuss ASME code-related issues. The staff appreciates the views you expressed in your letter and will take all suggestions and comments into consideration before a final decision is reached. Since this may ultimately involve rulemaking, the Commission will provide specific guidance on what action the staff should pursue. If rulemaking is proposed, the public will have an opportunity to comment on the proposed rule and staff actions subsequent to a Commission decision. If the rulemaking process begins and public comments are solicited, I urge you to make your views known at that time.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

William F. Kane, Director  
Spent Fuel Project Office  
Office of Nuclear Materials Safety  
and Safeguards

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Note: Docket incoming with reply.

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NAME:	LKokajko		W Kane				
DATE	8/21/98		8/26/98				

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UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

August 26, 1998

Mr. Ronald C. Howard  
Assistant Vice President  
Quality Engineering Services Department  
The Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection  
and Insurance Company  
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "William F. Kane", is positioned above the typed name.

William F. Kane, Director  
Spent Fuel Project Office  
Office of Nuclear Materials Safety  
and Safeguards