

From: Edwin Lyman <lyman@nci.org>
To: <rom@nrc.gov>
Date: 2/23/01 4:39PM
Subject: Nb cladding

Dear Ralph,

Thank you for the information you sent me the other day regarding the upcoming PIRT on source terms.

I'm writing in regard to today's meeting with Framatome, which I attended. NCI is quite concerned by the implications of the Boehmert paper, especially regarding the safety of the M5-clad MOX fuel which is going to be used here.

I was wondering if the information that was provided to you today by Framatome was sufficient to alleviate the concerns you expressed in the December memo on this issue, with regard to the question of whether the 17% ECR criterion is appropriate for M5. I was also wondering if NRC were planning to take measures to verify the new embrittlement data, such as inspecting Framatome's facilities and lab notebooks and/or conducting experiments of its own. It was not clear to me from this afternoon's meeting whether RES considers it essential to conduct its own post-quench ductility tests on unirradiated M5 cladding.

I find it odd that Framatome would have conducted ring compression tests in the last 2-3 years for M5 cladding when it maintains that such tests are unnecessary for safety.

Given that the use of M5 cladding is about to increase dramatically in the U.S., I hope that NRC's conclusions regarding the new Framatome data will be made available to the public as soon as possible.

Thanks for all your help.

Sincerely,

Ed Lyman
Nuclear Control Institute

Accession No: ML010860072