

July 9, 1999

ORGANIZATION Nuclear Energy Institute

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MEETING WITH THE NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE
AND PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS

On June 21, 1999, the NRC staff met with representatives of the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and public stakeholders to discuss the status of the staff's efforts to assess the risk associated with the storage of spent fuel in spent fuel pools at sites in the decommissioning phase. The agenda and attendance list are provided as Enclosures 1 and 2, respectively.

After opening remarks by the NRC, representatives from NEI, Lynnette Hendricks and Mike Meisner, proposed an agenda for a decommissioning workshop to be held in mid-July 1999. The goals of the workshop will be to develop an analytical framework for determining the level of risk associated with decommissioning facilities and to identify basic procedural and/or design commitments necessary to support the analytical basis. During the discussion of the agenda, Stuart Treby, Assistant General Counsel for Rulemaking and Fuel Cycle, stated that since these efforts are destined to result in rulemaking, care must be taken at the workshop to facilitate public involvement. Mr. Treby also stated that the workshop would be appropriate for collection and dissemination of information upon which the proposed new rules would be based, but that it would not be appropriate to negotiate or develop a consensus on what criteria should compose the proposed rules. The session concluded when the NRC agreed to provide proposed modifications to the agenda proposed by NEI.

Next, Glenn Kelly, of the NRC, summarized the approach of the staff's preliminary probabilistic risk assessment of spent fuel pools at decommissioning reactors. Mr. Kelly described in detail the event trees and conditional probabilities associated with several different possible scenarios. Since there is little or no automated equipment at these spent fuel pools, operator action is a major factor in recovering from postulated faulted conditions. For many scenarios analyzed, operators may have up to 120 hours to take action to mitigate the event prior to an offsite release. A major area of discussion between the NRC and NEI related to what probability to assign for the operator failing to take adequate corrective actions to mitigate events when a long period of time is available to respond.

NEI representatives provided the NRC with additional information in the form of a draft Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) report regarding spent fuel pool seismic failure frequency. The report is provided as Enclosure 3.

Mr. Peter James Atherton raised questions regarding the potential for criticality induced by severe accidents in spent fuel pools. The NRC responded by stating that a criticality event coupled with a zirconium fire scenario had a much lower probability of occurrence than a

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zirconium fire scenario without a criticality event. Furthermore, the consequences of a zirconium fire coupled with a criticality event would only have a negligible increase in consequences. Thus, based on information reviewed to date, criticality is not considered a significant risk concern.

/S/ BY WM. HUFFMAN for
Richard F. Dudley, Senior Project Manager
Decommissioning Section
Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project No. 689

Enclosures: 1. Agenda
2. List of Attendees
3. EPRI Report

cc w/encls: See next page

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FOR Richard F. Dudley, Senior Project Manager
Decommissioning Section
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Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Attendance
Decommissioning Public Meeting
June 21, 1999

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>
Larry Kopp	NRC
John Hannon	NRC
Diane Jackson	NRC
Vonna Ordaz	NRC
Larry Pittiglio	NRC-NMSS/PWM
Tim Johnson	NRC-NMSS/PWM
Duke Wheeler	NRC-NRR/PDIV-D
Bill Huffman	NRC-NRR/PDIV-D
Anthony Markley	NRC-NRR/DRIP/RGEB
John Greeves	NRC-NMSS
Aby Mohseni	NRC-NMSS
Mark Rubin	NRC
Ken Heck	NRC-NRR
Mike Cheok	NRC-NRR/DSSA
Joseph Staudenimeir	NRC-NRR/DSSA/SRXB
Mark Satorious	NRC-OEDO
J. C. Shepherd	NRC-DWM
Sam Nalluswami	NRC-NRR/PDIV-D
Goutam Bagchi	NRC-NRR/DE
Jim O'Brien	NRC-NRR/DIPM
Falk Kantor	NRC-NRR/DIPM
Serge Roudier	NRC-NRR/DIPM
Richard Dudley	NRC-NRR/DPIV-D
Stuart Richards	NRC-NRR/PDIV&D
Glenn Kelly	NRC-DSSA/SPSB
Richard Barrett	NRC-DSSA/SPSB
George Hubbard	NRC-DSSA/SPLB
Stuart Treby	NRC-OGC
John Zwolinski	NRC-DLPM
Alan Nelson	NEI
Lynnette Hendricks	NEI
Parviz Moieni	Southern California Edison
Lanny Dusek	Portland General Electric Company
Dana Kelly	INEEL
Martin Somerville	BNFL
Rita Bowser	BNFL
Gerry van Noordenner	Connecticut Yankee
Mike Meisner	MYAPC