



May 25, 2001
RMG-01-023

Mr. Timothy Kobetz
Spent Fuel Project Office, NMSS
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852

SUBJECT: Administrative Error in NUHOMS CoC 72-1004, Amendment No.2

Dear Mr. Kobetz:

A review of the current NUHOMS CoC 72-1004, Amendment No.2, has been performed in conjunction with a planned July 9, 2001 spent fuel dry storage campaign by Duke Power at the Oconee Site. This review has identified an issue with the Technical Specifications that Transnuclear West believes is the result of an administrative error and that requires the immediate attention of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Specifically, as issued by the NRC on August 30, 2000, the NUHOMS CoC 72-1004, Amendment No.2, Technical Specification Section 1.2.1, Fuel Specifications, Table 1-1a has a value of 8.536 inches for the *Maximum* (emphasis added) Assembly Width (unirradiated) for a PWR fuel assembly with and without BPRAs. This value of 8.536 inches corresponds to the *nominal* width of the B&W 15x15 fuel assembly as designated in CoC 72-1004, Amendment No. 1. No change was proposed for this area, and therefore, the value should remain as identified as the *Limiting Nominal* Assembly Width. This would not only be consistent with the previous revision of the Technical Specifications, but also the FSAR and the supporting calculations. This same issue also occurs for the BWR fuel assembly *Maximum* Width in Table 1-1b of the Technical Specification.

These dimensional call-outs are changes from the previous Technical Specifications resulting from NRC's review and approval of Amendment No. 2. During this review process, the NRC required that for the fuel assembly nominal width call-out in Section 1.2.1, the reference to the NUHOMS SAR be replaced with the actual numerical values from the FSAR. However, it appears that in the process of transferring these numerical values from the FSAR, the NRC inadvertently changed the call-out from a limiting nominal width of the fuel assembly to *maximum* width of the fuel assembly.

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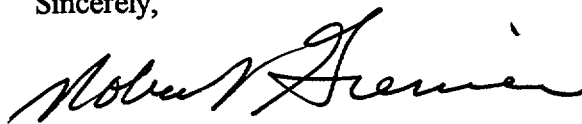
The effect of this change with respect to the PWR fuel assembly width call-out is that all B&W 15x15 fuel assemblies are now excluded from storage in NUHOMS-24P system. Until this Technical Specification is corrected, Duke Power will be precluded from loading DSCs in its loading campaign starting July 9, 2001. This same issue for BWR fuel assembly specifications will affect PPL's planned loading of fuel at the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station in August of 2001.

Transnuclear West believes that these are inadvertent changes as a result of administrative error. There was no change to any fuel specification, bounding fuel assembly parameter, supporting analysis or actual fuel assembly physical characteristic. Therefore, *Maximum Assembly Width* in the Tables 1-1a and 1-1b should be changed to *Limiting Nominal Assembly Width*.

Transnuclear West requests your immediate attention to and resolution of this issue such that our clients may load fuel as planned. Absent prompt NRC action, Duke Power and PPL will be forced to seek their own relief from the NRC to avoid impacting their planned loading campaigns.

Should you have question about this letter, please contact Mr. U.B. Chopra at 510-744 6053 or myself at 510-744 6020.

Sincerely,



Robert Grenier
President and Chief Operating Officer

cc: Mr. K. Kelenski, PPL; Mr. G. Walden, Duke Power