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**From:** Melinda Malloy  
**To:** WNP6(LIK)  
**Date:** 12/19/97 10:03am  
**Subject:** Comments on Final Criticality Accident Requirements Rule -Reply

Larry:

Are you submitting this as a formal comment on the draft rule? With the direct final rule approach, unless significant comments are submitted within 30 days in response to the FR notice (or by Jan. 2), the final rule will become effective on Feb. 17. I do not believe there is any opportunity to "tweak" the rule before it becomes final.

Melinda

>>> Laurence Kopp 12/19/97 09:47am >>>

After reviewing the proposed criteria for 10CFR50.68, I believe that it would be advantageous to rewrite criterion (1) as follows:

(1) Plant procedures during fuel handling and transportation do not permit the assemblage of a critical configuration of fuel assemblies, considering the most adverse conditions of geometry and moderation by unborated water possible.

This would eliminate possible exemption requirements for licensees who may have sufficient assemblies out of safe storage to achieve a critical configuration but who have either sufficient separation distances or the absence of sources of moderation to preclude criticality.

**CC:** WND2.WNP6(EWW, GMH, TEC), SPT, RLF, GSM, RLP1, THE...