

NR

From: Amy Cabbage NR - NR NR
To: NR - Caruso, Ralph; Orehwa, Yuri; Shoop, Undine
Date: Wed, Jan 30, 2002 11:13 AM
Subject: Fwd: Importing German Archive Fuel Pebbles for Testing in the US

FYI, e-mail attached from Stu to DOE regarding import of German archive fuel and plans for a conference call next week.

CC: Gamberoni, Marsha; Lyons, James

T/48

From: Stuart Rubin *RES*
To: Caponiti, Alice
Date: Wed, Jan 30, 2002 10:27 AM
Subject: Importing German Archive Fuel Pebbles for Testing in the US

Alice:

I would like to set up a conference call for next week (after you return) among NRC (RES and NMSS), DOE, INEEL and ORNL. The purpose would be to discuss the next steps and responsibilities to import and transfer the German archive fuel pebbles to the US for irradiation testing. Specifically, the purpose of the call will be to develop an understanding of the action steps that will be needed and the lead (and support) organizations for each step. I discussed this effort in an NRC/Exelon conference call on 1/29/02 and today with Farouk Eltawila. Based on these discussions I have put together the following strawman outline of the general process steps and lead/support responsibilities for this effort. We can discuss and revise the following steps (and any others) and the organizational responsibilities in the conference call:

NRC will provide leadership in making the oral "handshake deal" w/ Julich for the needed # of German archive fuel pebbles and the available manufacturing characterization paperwork. This will be done via a conference call during the week of Feb 4-8.

DOE will assigned as the lead US Govt Agency for preparing and signing the necessary written formal agreement for the transfer of the agreed upon number of pebbles from the German Govt to the US Govt.

INEEL (or ORNL) will take the lead, in coordination with DOE, and with the support of NRC (NMSS), in implementing the Julich- to-DOE formal Gov- to-Govt agreement. That is, INEEL (or ORNL) will plan and implement the process steps and do the paperwork, arrange for shipping containers, etc. needed to actually import and take possession of the German pebbles at INEEL for the irradiation testing pursuant to the Govt. to Govt. formal agreement.

ORNL in coordination will INEEL be responsible for transporting and transferring the irradiated pebbles from INEEL to ORNL for PIE and any accident simulation testing at ORNL.

I would like to try to finalize the broad steps and organizational (and individual names if possible) responsibilities during the conference call.

Also:

During the NRC conference call yesterday with Exelon, Peter Pagano confirmed that Exelon has no access capability to obtain the (6) pebbles that are called for in the DOE/Exelon fuel irradiation plan. He stated that PBMR had asked Julich earlier about getting such an allotment for the DOE/Exelon testing in the US and Julich responded that they had already earmarked the pebbles to be provided for testing in the US through their commitment to NRC (to me).

Peter Pagano also indicated that he once knew someone at ORNL or INEEL who was knowledgeable and experienced in importing of pebbles as a result of previous cooperative research efforts about a decade ago. He took the action to try to track down the person if he was still available. (We should use this resource if he can identify and locate him for us.)

Peter stated that the DOE/Exelon Test plan involves 6 pebbles but there is no provision for requesting and storing in the US additional (e.g., 2) German archive pebbles for US archival purposes. We talked about the total request being about 10-12 to cover the DOE/Exelon plans and the additional NRC needs to explore the margins to failure. He agreed that that would be about the right number.

I would like to have the NRC/DOE conference call on Wednesday (2/6) or Thursday (2/7) of the week that

you return.

Please contact me or have your secretary contact Peggy Bennett (301-415-5698) on when you and the labs can participate in the conference call. Peggy will coordinate the time, date and phone number for the call.

Thanks.

Stu

>>> "Caponiti, Alice" <Alice.Caponiti@hq.doe.gov> 01/24/02 05:33PM >>>
Stuart:

DOE

I will be in Korea next week and will return to the office on Tuesday, 5 February. If it is preferable to hold the call next week I might be able to agree to a call-in time. While I am away I will be checking messages on my voicemail. In addition, please contact Gary Bell at ORNL (865-241-4400) if you need immediate information.

I have a call in to Peter Pagano at Exelon to confirm the understanding that the DOE testing effort was expecting to use pebbles attained by the NRC and not from PBMR.

I have also asked the team to confirm that six pebbles is a best estimate for our testing needs. There was a previous understanding that only six pebbles were available for this effort.

Regarding the DOE/NRC conference call, are you looking for laboratory input or feds only?

Alice Caponiti
301-903-6062

-----Original Message-----

From: Stuart Rubin [mailto:SDR1@nrc.gov]

Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2002 3:56 PM

To: Alice.Caponiti@hq.doe.gov

Cc: Farouk Eltawila; Joseph Gitter; John Flack; Julia McAnallen;
Margaret Bennett

Subject: DOE/NRC Meeting on Gas Reactor Fuels - 23 Jan 02

DOE

Alice:

I am in the process of setting up an NRC/DOE conference call to further discuss the meeting topic on "Actions Needed for Transfer of German Archive Pebbles"

The topics will cover the NRC's areas of knowledge and experience and any knowledge and experience that DOE can bring to the call.

There will be a follow-on telephone discussion with Germany after we get our collective thoughts pulled together on the NRC and DOE knowledge and experience base. I would like to have the NRC/DOE call next week if possible. Please give me your availability and that of any others in DOE who should participate. I'll pass it along to our Management assistant to

co-ordinate. Attached is the results of the NRC's recent look at the issues which may be involved. We will now have to focus on the actions need to actually import the pebbles. We will need to identify someone to put the action plan together and to carry out the actions needed to bring the fuel pebbles to the NRC.

Also Farouk wants make a decision on the number of pebbles we will request from Germany. It will be a combination of DOE's needs and NRC's needs without overlap and including any archive fuel for storage from the German allotment. we don't want more than we need and we probably don't want to exceed the 14 that can fit into a single fuel test rig. If the DOE/Exelon irradiation program plan needs are found later to exceed the 6 you mentioned plus the NRC's needs then EXELON WILL BE OBLIGATED TO GET THE ADDITIONAL PEBBLES FROM GERMANY SEPARATELY.

What is your latest information on how many (if any) pebbles that Exelon can bring to the cooperative irradiation test plan?

Thanks.

Stu

CC: Betty Wright; Brian Horn; Farouk Eltawila; Howard Faulkner; Janice Owens; John Flack; Joseph Giitter; Julia McAnallen; Margaret Bennett; Nancy Osgood; Patricia Tana; Robert Nelson; Sharon Steele