

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

November 1, 1995

NRC ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER 95-04: NRC PROGRAM OFFICE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR
DECOMMISSIONING ACTIVITIES AND PLANNING FOR
DRY CASK STORAGE OF SPENT FUEL

Addressees

All holders of operating licenses or construction permits for nuclear power reactors and test and research reactors.

Independent spent fuel storage installation designers and fabricators.

Purpose

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing this administrative letter to inform addressees about (1) lessons learned on the desirability of early notification to NRC of plans to install dry storage facilities for spent nuclear reactor fuel and (2) a memorandum of understanding that outlines the respective responsibilities of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) and the Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards (NMSS) for decommissioning activities. This administrative letter does not transmit or imply any new or changed requirements or staff positions. No specific action or written response is required.

Discussion

1. Planning for Dry Cask Storage

In the last several years, an increasing number of utilities have begun to consider the use of onsite dry cask storage facilities to supplement space available in their spent fuel pools for storing spent fuel. Several utilities have installed, or are installing, such facilities.

Utility and NRC experience suggests that early and thorough planning is important to minimize delays and additional effort that may result from the need to resolve outstanding technical, procedural, or other issues identified late in the installation process. Licensees who have anticipated the need for dry cask facilities and have begun their planning for such facilities several years before the expected initial loading have been the most successful. The Nuclear Energy Institute has promulgated guidance concerning early planning to its members. As part of this early planning process, successful licensees have informed NRC about their plans and maintained communication with NRC as they developed detailed plans and schedules and made commitments for particular cask designs. Such communication has aided NRC in planning the use of its resources to ensure timely response to licensees on regulatory matters.

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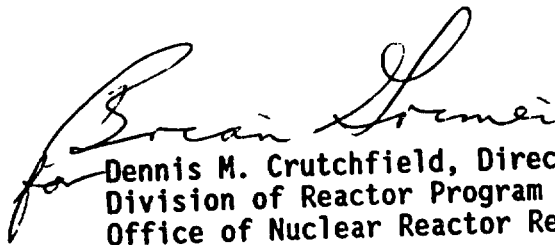
2. Memorandum of Understanding on Decommissioning

On March 15, 1995, NRC issued a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between NRR and NMSS that defines the program responsibilities of these offices for managing power reactor decommissioning and spent fuel programs and non-power reactor decommissioning. This MOU, which is available in NRC public document rooms under Accession Number 9508250180, may assist licensees and others in determining appropriate NRC contacts for various issues. Key provisions of the MOU are the following:

- NRR has cognizance, including project management, oversight, and inspection responsibility, over spent fuel pool operations, spent fuel cask loading, and transfer and unloading activities until fuel is safely placed in an independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI) or shipped off site. NRR also has responsibility for the spent fuel physical protection program until the fuel is removed from the site.
- Except for the physical protection program at operating reactors, NMSS has cognizance over facilities related to fuel storage in an ISFSI, for shipment of spent fuel from the ISFSI to an offsite storage facility, and for dry fuel handling facilities at the ISFSI.
- NMSS has cognizance over the review of ISFSI casks, facilities and their construction, vendors, and respective inspections. NMSS also has cognizance over topical reports and generic design approvals related to dry fuel handling facilities. Onsite visits to reactor facilities are coordinated through the NRR project manager in accordance with NRC Field Policy Manual (NUREG/BR-0075) No. 12, "Coordination of NRC Activities at Power Reactors."

The MOU also designates lead and support responsibilities for activities associated with decommissioning of power reactors and for reviews in selected technical areas, and indicates that NRR has responsibility for the decommissioning of non-power reactors.

This administrative letter requires no specific action or written response. If you have any questions about this letter, please contact the contact listed below or the appropriate NRR project manager.


for Dennis M. Crutchfield, Director
Division of Reactor Program Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Contacts: Andrew J. Kugler, NRR
(301) 415-2828

Patricia L. Eng, NMSS
(301) 415-8577

Attachment: List of Recently Issued NRC Administrative Letters

Attachment filed in Jacket

LIST OF RECENTLY ISSUED
NRC ADMINISTRATIVE LETTERS

Administrative Letter No.	Subject	Date of Issuance	Issued to
95-03	Availability of Reactor Vessel Integrity Database	08/04/95	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
94-13, Rev. 1	Access to Nuclear Regulatory Commission Bulletin Board Systems	06/29/95	All NRC licensees.
95-02	Cost Beneficial Licensing Actions	02/23/95	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
95-01, Supp. 1	Change in Commercial Tele- phone and Facsimile Numbers at Nuclear Regulatory Commission Headquarters	02/02/95	All NRC licensees.
95-01	Change in Commercial Tele- phone and Facsimile Numbers at Nuclear Regulatory Commission Headquarters	01/23/95	All NRC licensees.
94-17	Addressing Correspondence to the NRC	12/15/94	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
94-16	Revision of NRC Core Inspection Program for Annual Emergency Preparedness Exercise	11/30/94	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
94-15	Reorganization of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation	10/06/94	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear reactors.
94-14	Distribution of Sup- plement to NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examiner Standards"	09/22/94	All holders of operator and senior operator licenses at nuclear power reactors and all power reactor licensees.

OL = Operating License
CP = Construction Permit

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orig /s/'d by BKGrimes/for
Dennis M. Crutchfield, Director
Division of Reactor Program Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Contacts: Andrew J. Kugler, NRR
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(301) 415-8577

Attachment: List of Recently Issued NRC Administrative Letters
*See previous concurrence This document was reviewed by TechEd on 10/13/95.

OFFICE	PECB:DRPM	C/PECB:DRPM	D/DRPM:NRR	
NAME	JBirmingham*	AEChaffee*	DMCrutchfield	
DATE	10/18/95	10/23/95	10/27/95	

CRGR staff (J. Conran) reviewed and approved use of Administrative Letter.
Official Document Name: 95-04.AL

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below or the appropriate NRR project manager.

Dennis M. Crutchfield, Director
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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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*See previous concurrence

OFFICE	DRPW/NRR	PDIII-3:DRPW:NRR	SFPO:NMSS	PECB:DRPM:NRR
NAME	AJKugler*	GHMarcus*	WDTravers*	AEChaffee
DATE	10/15/95	10/15/95	10/15/95	10/23/95 VSB
OFFICE	PECB:DRPM	PECB:DRPM	PECB:DRPM	DRPM/NRR
NAME	JBirmingham*	RLDennig*	RJKiesel	DMCrutchfield
DATE	10/18/95	10/19/95	10/ /95	10/25/95

Official Document Name: G:\JLB\95-XX.AL

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Dennis M. Crutchfield, Director
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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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DATE	10/15/95	10/15/95	10/15/95	10/ /95
OFFICE	PECB:DRPM	PECB:DRPM	PECB:DRPM	DRPM:NRR
NAME	JBirmingham	RLDennig <i>for</i>	RJKiessel	DMCrutchfield
DATE	10/18/95 <i>KL</i>	10/19/95	10/ /95	10/ /95

Official Document Name: G:\JLB\95-XX.AL

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Alfred E. Chaffee, Chief
Events Assessment and Generic Communications Branch
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*See previous concurrence

OFFICE	DRPW/NRR	PDIII-3:DRPW:NRR	SFPO:NMSS	PECB:DRPM:NRR
NAME	AJKugler <i>gn</i>	GHMarcus <i>GHM</i>	WDTravers <i>WDT</i>	AEChaffee
DATE	10/5/95	10/5/95	10/1/95	10/ /95

Official Document Name: G:\JLB\95-XX.AL