

May 2, 2003

MEMORANDUM TO: E. William Brach, Director
Spent Fuel Project Office, NMSS

THROUGH: M. Wayne Hodges, Deputy Director /RA/
Technical Review Directorate
Spent Fuel Project Office, NMSS

FROM: Jack Guttman, Chief /RA/
Technical Review Section B
Technical Review Directorate
Spent Fuel Project Office, NMSS

Earl P. Easton, Chief /RA/
Technical Review Section A
Technical Review Directorate
Spent Fuel Project Office, NMSS

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF INTERIM STAFF GUIDANCE MEMORANDUM NO. 18,
THE DESIGN/QUALIFICATION OF FINAL CLOSURE WELDS ON
AUSTENITIC STAINLESS STEEL CANISTERS AS CONFINEMENT
BOUNDARY FOR SPENT FUEL STORAGE AND CONTAINMENT
BOUNDARY FOR SPENT FUEL TRANSPORTATION

Attached is Interim Staff Guidance (ISG) No. 18 entitled, "The Design/Qualification of Final Closure Welds on Austenitic Stainless Steel Canisters as Confinement Boundary for Spent Fuel Storage and Containment Boundary for Spent Fuel Transportation" for your approval. This ISG provides new guidance on addressing the qualification of the final closure welds of austenitic stainless steel canisters for meeting the confinement and containment requirements of 10 CFR Part 72 and 10 CFR Part 71, respectively. This ISG will be used in conjunction with NUREG - 1536, "Standard Review Plan for Dry Cask Storage Systems" (January 1997); NUREG - 1567, "Standard Review Plan for Spent Fuel Storage Facilities" (March 2000); and with NUREG - 1617, "Standard Review Plan for Transportation Packages for Spent Nuclear Fuel" (March 2000) until such time as this ISG is incorporated into these NUREGs.

This ISG has been reviewed by the Spent Fuel Project Office staff and the Technical Review, Licensing, and Inspection Section Supervisors. All comments received have been dispositioned; therefore, we recommend that this ISG be approved.

Attachment: ISG No. 18

CONTACT: Kenneth Erwin, SFPO/NMSS
301-415-2443

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