

June 19, 2012

Dr. Jayant Bondre
Vice President, Engineering
Transnuclear, Inc.
7135 Minstrel Way, Suite 300
Columbia, MD 21045

SUBJECT: STATUS OF ACCEPTANCE REVIEW OF APPLICATION FOR REVISION OF
CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE NO. 9302 (TAC NO. L24627)

Dear Dr. Bondre:

By letter dated March 2, 2012, Transnuclear, Inc., (TN) submitted a revised application in accordance with 10 CFR Part 71 for a revision to Certificate of Compliance (CoC) No. 9302 for the Model No. NUHOMS®-MP197. The application included information requested in an NRC letter of unresolved issues dated November 2, 2011, and in pre-application meetings dated November 17, 2011, and January 11, 2012.

This letter is to inform you of the delay in the acceptance review of your application. The staff agrees that the technical approach for addressing high burnup (HBU) fuel is generally consistent with the information discussed in the pre-application meetings. The staff is performing a regulatory analysis of the technical approach to provide confidence that HBU fuel can satisfy the unique requirements regarding handling, integrity, and criticality analysis such as 10 CFR 71.43, 71.55, and Subpart G. The high-burn fuel cladding proposed for the MP-197 could become embrittled after long cooling periods and the fuel is not readily-accessible for inspection after it has been potentially sealed and cooled for several years in its storage mode under 10 CFR Part 72. NRC is also considering the generic regulatory issues with the safe handling of the high burnup spent fuel by NRC licensees after transportation (e.g., the SNF handling characteristics or fuel repacking needs of a potential recipient facility).

Staff intends to issue a Request for Additional Information (RSI) by July 15, 2012, if necessary.

NRC will not charge TN for efforts related with interpretation of current rules for this approach and considerations of the generic regulatory issues with respect to your application. However, NRC will charge TN for efforts directly associated with the acceptance review of your technical approach. The amount of time to review this application is expected to exceed the normal amount of time due to its complexity and size.

J. Bondre

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Please reference Docket No. 71-9302 in any future correspondence related to this licensing action. If you have any questions regarding this matter, you may contact me at (301) 492-3300.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Michael D. Waters, Chief
Licensing Branch
Division of Spent Fuel Storage and Transportation
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No. 71-9302
TAC No. L24627

cc: R. Boyle, Department of Transportation
J. Shuler, Department of Energy

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