



Nebraska Public Power District

Always there when you need us

10 CFR 50.54(f)

October 27, 2016
NLS2016063

Attn: Document Control Desk
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Subject: Response to Generic Letter 2016-01, "Monitoring of Neutron-Absorbing
Materials in Spent Fuel Pools"
Cooper Nuclear Station, Docket No. 50-298, DPR-46

Dear Sir or Madam:

On April 7, 2016, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Generic Letter 2016-01 to all power reactor licensees except those that have permanently ceased operations with all reactor fuel removed from onsite spent fuel pool storage.

The purpose of this letter is to provide Nebraska Public Power District's response for Cooper Nuclear Station (CNS). CNS has been determined to be a Category 4 licensee in accordance with Generic Letter 2016-01. As a Category 4 licensee, information on the neutron absorber material, criticality analysis of record and neutron absorber monitoring program is requested depending on the type of neutron absorber material present and credited in the spent fuel pool. The CNS spent fuel pool credits Boral and Metamic neutron absorbers and therefore is required to provide information in the following areas: (1,2,4) for Boral and (1,2) for Metamic. The enclosures contain the CNS response with the requested information.

Certain information in the response is considered to be proprietary by Holtec International (Holtec), pursuant to 10 CFR 2.390(a)(4). The proprietary response is provided as Enclosure 1. The Holtec affidavit requesting that information be withheld from public disclosure is provided as Enclosure 3. A non-proprietary version suitable for public disclosure is provided as Enclosure 2.

This letter contains no regulatory commitments.

If you have any questions regarding this submittal, please contact Jim Shaw, Licensing Manager, at 402-825-2788.

Enclosure 1 contains Proprietary Information. Upon separation from Enclosure 1, the cover letter and the remainder of the document are decontrolled.

A158
NRR

Proprietary Information - Withhold Under 10 CFR 2.390

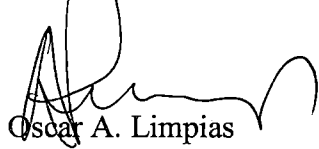
NLS2016063

Page 2 of 2

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on: 10/27/16

Sincerely,



Oscar A. Limpas
Vice President-Nuclear and
Chief Nuclear Officer

/lb

- Enclosures:
1. Response to Areas of Requested Information in Appendix A of Generic Letter 2016-01, "Monitoring of Neutron-Absorbing Materials in Spent Fuel Pools" (Proprietary)
 2. Response to Areas of Requested Information in Appendix A of Generic Letter 2016-01, "Monitoring of Neutron-Absorbing Materials in Spent Fuel Pools" (Non-Proprietary)
 3. Holtec International Affidavit

cc: Regional Administrator w/enclosures
USNRC - Region IV

Cooper Project Manager w/enclosures
USNRC - NRR Plant Licensing Branch IV-2

Senior Resident Inspector w/enclosures
USNRC - CNS

NPG Distribution w/o enclosures

CNS Records w/enclosures

Enclosure 1 contains Proprietary Information. Upon separation from Enclosure 1, the cover letter and the remainder of the document are decontrolled.

NLS2016063

Enclosure 3

Page 1 of 6

ENCLOSURE 3

HOLTEC INTERNATIONAL AFFIDAVIT

AFFIDAVIT PURSUANT TO 10 CFR 2.390

(4) Some examples of categories of information which fit into the definition of proprietary information are:

- a. Information that discloses a process, method, or apparatus, including supporting data and analyses, where prevention of its use by Holtec's competitors without license from Holtec International constitutes a competitive economic advantage over other companies;
- b. Information which, if used by a competitor, would reduce his expenditure of resources or improve his competitive position in the design, manufacture, shipment, installation, assurance of quality, or licensing of a similar product.
- c. Information which reveals cost or price information, production, capacities, budget levels, or commercial strategies of Holtec International, its customers, or its suppliers;
- d. Information which reveals aspects of past, present, or future Holtec International customer-funded development plans and programs of potential commercial value to Holtec International;
- e. Information which discloses patentable subject matter for which it may be desirable to obtain patent protection.

The information sought to be withheld is considered to be proprietary for the reasons set forth in paragraphs 4.a, 4.b and 4.e above.

(5) The information sought to be withheld is being submitted to the NRC in confidence. The information (including that compiled from many sources) is of a sort customarily held in confidence by Holtec International, and is in fact so held. The information sought to be withheld has, to the best of my knowledge and belief, consistently been held in confidence by Holtec International. No public disclosure has been made, and it is not available in public sources. All disclosures to third parties, including any required transmittals to the NRC, have been made, or must be made, pursuant to regulatory provisions or proprietary agreements which provide for

AFFIDAVIT PURSUANT TO 10 CFR 2.390

I, Kimberly Manzione, being duly sworn, depose and state as follows:

- (1) I have reviewed the information described in paragraph (2) which is sought to be withheld, and am authorized to apply for its withholding.
- (2) The information sought to be withheld is information provided in reference documents listed below as noted in Holtec letter 1406-013. These documents have been requested for transmittal by Cooper Nuclear Station. These Enclosures contains Holtec Proprietary information:
 - Enclosure 1, Response to Areas of Requested Information in Appendix A of Generic Letter 2016-01, "Monitoring of Neutron-Absorbing Materials in Spent Fuel Pools"
- (3) In making this application for withholding of proprietary information of which it is the owner, Holtec International relies upon the exemption from disclosure set forth in the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 USC Sec. 552(b)(4) and the Trade Secrets Act, 18 USC Sec. 1905, and NRC regulations 10CFR Part 9.17(a)(4), 2.390(a)(4), and 2.390(b)(1) for "trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential" (Exemption 4). The material for which exemption from disclosure is here sought is all "confidential commercial information", and some portions also qualify under the narrower definition of "trade secret", within the meanings assigned to those terms for purposes of FOIA Exemption 4 in, respectively, Critical Mass Energy Project v. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 975F2d871 (DC Cir. 1992), and Public Citizen Health Research Group v. FDA, 704F2d1280 (DC Cir. 1983).

AFFIDAVIT PURSUANT TO 10 CFR 2.390

maintenance of the information in confidence. Its initial designation as proprietary information, and the subsequent steps taken to prevent its unauthorized disclosure, are as set forth in paragraphs (6) and (7) following.

- (6) Initial approval of proprietary treatment of a document is made by the manager of the originating component, the person most likely to be acquainted with the value and sensitivity of the information in relation to industry knowledge. Access to such documents within Holtec International is limited on a "need to know" basis.
- (7) The procedure for approval of external release of such a document typically requires review by the staff manager, project manager, principal scientist or other equivalent authority, by the manager of the cognizant marketing function (or his designee), and by the Legal Operation, for technical content, competitive effect, and determination of the accuracy of the proprietary designation. Disclosures outside Holtec International are limited to regulatory bodies, customers, and potential customers, and their agents, suppliers, and licensees, and others with a legitimate need for the information, and then only in accordance with appropriate regulatory provisions or proprietary agreements.
- (8) The information classified as proprietary was developed and compiled by Holtec International at a significant cost to Holtec International. This information is classified as proprietary because it contains detailed descriptions of analytical approaches and methodologies not available elsewhere. This information would provide other parties, including competitors, with information from Holtec International's technical database and the results of evaluations performed by Holtec International. A substantial effort has been expended by Holtec International to develop this information. Release of this information would improve a competitor's position because it would enable Holtec's competitor to copy our technology and offer it for sale in competition with our company, causing us financial injury.

AFFIDAVIT PURSUANT TO 10 CFR 2.390

-
- (9) Public disclosure of the information sought to be withheld is likely to cause substantial harm to Holtec International's competitive position and foreclose or reduce the availability of profit-making opportunities. The information is part of Holtec International's comprehensive spent fuel storage technology base, and its commercial value extends beyond the original development cost. The value of the technology base goes beyond the extensive physical database and analytical methodology, and includes development of the expertise to determine and apply the appropriate evaluation process.

The research, development, engineering, and analytical costs comprise a substantial investment of time and money by Holtec International.

The precise value of the expertise to devise an evaluation process and apply the correct analytical methodology is difficult to quantify, but it clearly is substantial.

Holtec International's competitive advantage will be lost if its competitors are able to use the results of the Holtec International experience to normalize or verify their own process or if they are able to claim an equivalent understanding by demonstrating that they can arrive at the same or similar conclusions.

The value of this information to Holtec International would be lost if the information were disclosed to the public. Making such information available to competitors without their having been required to undertake a similar expenditure of resources would unfairly provide competitors with a windfall, and deprive Holtec International of the opportunity to exercise its competitive advantage to seek an adequate return on its large investment in developing these very valuable analytical tools.

AFFIDAVIT PURSUANT TO 10 CFR 2.390

STATE OF NEW JERSEY)
) ss:
COUNTY OF BURLINGTON)

Kimberly Manzione, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

That she has read the foregoing affidavit and the matters stated therein are true and correct to the best of her knowledge, information, and belief.

Executed at Marlton, New Jersey, this 17th day of October, 2016.



Kimberly Manzione
Licensing Manager
Holtec International

Subscribed and sworn before me this 17th day of October, 2016.



MARIA C. MASSI
NOTARY PUBLIC OF NEW JERSEY
My Commission Expires April 25, 2020