

JOINT ACRS/ACNW SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
SPENT FUEL PROJECT OFFICE
MARCH 26, 1996
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

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Cognizant ACRS Member: T. S. Kress

Cognizant ACRS Staff Engineer: N. Dudley

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-AGENDA-

	<u>Presentation</u> <u>Length</u>	<u>Time</u>
I. Introduction - Dr. Kress	5 min	8:35-8:40 a.m.
II. Spent Fuel Project Office Presentation Mr. William Travers and Mr. Charles Haughney		8:40-10:30 a.m.
• Overview of SFPO Scope and Responsibilities	20 min	8:40- 9:00 a.m.
• Status of Cask Storage Systems	45 min	9:00- 9:45 a.m.
- Present Systems		
- Anticipated Systems		
• Dry Cask Storage Action Plan	45 min	10:00-10:30 a.m.
- Past Issues		
- Standard Review Plan		
- Inspection Procedures		

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-STATUS REPORT-

PURPOSE

The Subcommittee will hear a presentation by the staff of the Spent Fuel Project Office (SFPO), NMSS, will brief the Committee on the activities conducted the the Office [page 5].

ACRS REVIEW OF SHIPPING CASKS

During the 407th meeting of the ACRS, March 10-12, 1994, the Committee decided not to review the proposed amendment to 10 CFR Part 72 for adding the standardized NUHOMS cask to the list of approved casks.

BACKGROUND OF THE SFPO

The SFPO was created to develop and implement the NRC's regulatory and licensing program for the storage of nuclear reactor spent fuel and transportation of radioactive materials. The SFPO serves as the agency lead in transportation and spent fuel storage activities. The number of staff members assigned to the SFPO has steadily increased as responsibilities have been added and program requirements have changed. Representative of the SFPO

As of December 22, 1995, General Atomic was considering pursuing the certification of spent fuel shipping casks even after DOE eliminated funding for the project. As of December 22, 1995, Advanced Containment Systems, Inc., a designer and potential manufacturer of dual-purpose canisters, was awaiting DOE to award a contract in April 1996 before proceeding with cask licensing. The elimination of DOE funding also called into question the licensing of multi-purpose casks.

After receiving applications for dual-purpose spent fuel casks, NMSS requested assistance from the Office of Nuclear Reactor Research (RES) to determine whether the transportation impacts evaluated in NUREG-0170, NRC's generic environmental impact statement, bound those impacts associated with anticipated spent fuel transportation activities. NMSS requested that the analysis be performed and documented before December 31, 1996.

Based on an NMSS inspection, VECTOR, a dual-purpose spent fuel cask vendor, agreed to delay shipping completed casks until NRC inspection issues were resolved. The issues included lack of quality assurance documentation, the failure to perform wall thickness checks, and the use of a leak test in lieu of a pressure test.

On February 1, 1996, the SFPO staff met with representatives of the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and fuel cycle licensees to discuss certification of transportation packages and related subjects. NEI agreed to propose specific topics and a format for future discussions.

SFPO DOCUMENTS

The staff issued an update to the Dry Cask Storage Action Plan on January 26, 1996 [page 7]. The plan identified open technical concerns related to heavy load and unloading procedure issues. Other identified issues related to long-term technical actions, communications, and procedures. The staff continued to place priority on resolving issues associated with completing dry run testing of dry cask systems at Oyster Creek and Arkansas Nuclear Unit 2.

NMSS issued the draft of the Standard Review Plan (SRP) for Dry Cask Storage Systems in February 1996. The intent of the SRP is to ensure the quality and uniformity of staff reviews and to present a well-defined base from which to evaluate proposed changes in the scope and requirements of reviews. A copy of the draft SRP is available on request.

The SFPO issued new inspection procedures for Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installations (ISFSI) on February 1, 1996. The new inspection procedures provided guidance for inspecting the design, fabrication, testing, and operation of an ISFSI. The new inspection procedures replaced existing inspection procedures and temporary instructions concerning dry storage of spent nuclear fuel.

EXPECTED COMMITTEE ACTION

The Joint Committee should consider whether to review and comment on the standard review plan for dry cask storage systems or the inspection procedures for an ISFSI.