

April 3, 2000

MEMORANDUM TO: Susan F. Shankman, Deputy Director
Licensing and Inspection Directorate
Spent Fuel Project Office, NMSS

FROM: Robert Temps, Safety Inspector ORIGINAL SIGNED BY /S/ **/RA/**
Transportation and Storage Safety
and Inspection Section
Licensing and Inspection Directorate
Spent Fuel Project Office, NMSS

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF PUBLIC MEETING WITH THE NUCLEAR ENERGY
INSTITUTE AND ELECTRIC POWER RESEARCH INSTITUTE

On February 29, 2000, a public meeting was held between the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), and the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) to discuss Interim Staff Guidance (ISG)-4 that deals with cask closure weld inspections. By letter dated January 5, 2000, NEI had requested a meeting to discuss the use of ultrasonic testing (UT) as an option in inspecting closure welds. The meeting was noticed on February 17, 2000. Attachment 1 is a list of attendees.

At the start of the meeting, the NEI and EPRI representatives stated that, "Revision 1 to ISG-4 (issued in September 1999) effectively prohibited the use of UT in the inspection of cask closure welds." NRC management stated that "it was not NRC's intent, when Revision 1 of ISG-4 was issued, to preclude the use of UT."

In the following discussion, EPRI explained that it was concerned that in applying the ISG-4 Revision 1 guidance, the use of preservice examination requirements results in flaws that are too small for meaningful application of UT in the inspection of canister closure welds. EPRI proposed to change the wording of ISG-4 to permit the use of a fracture mechanics approach to establish acceptable flaw sizes. The staff agreed in principle with the approach of using fracture mechanics to establish UT acceptance criteria, but stated that "use of the largest possible flaw calculated by the fracture mechanics method (i.e., critical crack size) would not be appropriate. Instead, the acceptance flaw size should be based on the lower sensitivity range of the UT method and should demonstrate a significant safety margin." The staff also encouraged NEI/EPRI to address the impact that the UT acceptance criteria would have on the calculated stresses since the effective weld size was being reduced by an amount equivalent to the UT flaw size. At the completion of the technical discussions, it was agreed that in March, NEI/EPRI would submit to NRC a proposed methodology for the use of UT and that the methodology would take into consideration the staff's concerns including the issues of allowable flaw size and calculated stresses.

S. Shankman

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No proprietary information was disseminated or presented at this meeting. No regulatory decisions were requested or made.

Please contact me if you wish to further discuss these issues.

Attachment: Attendance List

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Attachment: Attendance List

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Attachment 1
Attendance List

ATTENDANCE SHEET FOR 2/29/00 MEETING ON ISG-4

NAME	AFFILIATION
Rob Temps	NRC/ SFPO
Jim Lyons	NRC/SFPO
James Axline	Transnuclear West-Duke
Ron Parkhill	NRC/SFPO
David Tang	NRC/SFPO
E. Kim Kietzman	EPRI/Charlotte
David Shifflet	GNB/Mechanical Engineer-Consultant
Albert Machiels	EPRI
Alan Nelson	NEI
Wayne Hodges	NRC/SFPO
Earl P. Easton	NRC/SFPO