

APPENDIX II

UNITED STATES  
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MEMORANDUM FOR: Richard A. Weller, Leader  
Safety and Environmental Review Section  
Three Mile Island Program Office  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

THRU: Charles E. MacDonald, Chief *SM*  
Transportation Certification Branch  
Division of Fuel Cycle and Material Safety  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

FROM: Charles R. Marotta, Senior Criticality  
and Shielding Engineer  
Transportation Certification Branch  
Division of Fuel Cycle and Material Safety  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

SUBJECT: CRITICALITY SAFETY EVALUATION OF A LOADED CANISTER  
DROPPING ITS CONTENTS ONTO A SIMILAR LOADED CANISTER  
IN A MAXIMUM VOLUME STORAGE UNIT

1. Introduction and Summary

As agreed in our conference phone call with Phil Grant and John Thomas on Friday, October 18, 1985, I have analyzed the criticality aspects of the accidental dropping of the contents of a loaded canister onto a similar loaded stored canister. The analysis indicates that for the loading limitations per canister, maximum storage volume per canister available and 4350 ppm boron in water, such an accident poses no criticality hazard and under very conservative assumptions (discussed below), the keff shutdown range is between 32% (max) to 13% (min). A total of six KENO Monte Carlo (123 gpc) cases were analyzed and form the basis of the above conclusion. Results are given in Table 2. The computer input-output for these cases are on file in Transportation Certification Branch, NMSS.

2. Problem Definition

The concern of the subject accident scenario is the criticality state of a stored loaded canister when surrounded by the dropped contents of a similar canister. The stored canister resides in a parallelepiped borated (4350 ppm) water region of dimensions 18 inches by 18 inches by 14 feet - a volume of 892,000 cc.

### 3. Problem Solution: Assumptions and Methods

The approach in solving the above problem was to assume all canister contents to have a maximum payload of dry 900 kg  $U(3)O_8$  pellets - this nominal value is 4-1/2% higher than the greatest payload (861 kg - total) for a knock-out canister.

To understand the detailed approach taken (described below) in solving the problem, the following criticality observations are reviewed. They were established in previous studies.

- a. The as-built pellet is the form and geometry of the fuel to affect the optimum Vol fuel to Vol water ratio ( $V_F/V_W$ ) both for unborated water and borated water.
- b. Unborated water; maximum reactivity exists for fuel as pellet for  $V_F/V_W = 30/70$ , water is more important than fuel.
- c. Borated water; maximum reactivity for fuel pellet shifts to  $V_F/V_W = 60/40$  over the boration of 2500 ppm to 4500 ppm boron. Fuel is more important than the borated water. But the ratio goes from 58/42 to 62/38 over the boration range showing the small dependence on ppm; we have thus assumed an average value of 60/40.
- d. Since the above ratios (30/70 and 60/40) represent optimum values and further increase of fuel into the system would decrease reactivity, small uranium slurry volume and/or uranium fines in the moderator region give a crude-first approximation of reactivity reduction. This is not exactly correct since introducing fuel in the moderator region shifts the optimum value. This has been neglected and is considered a second order effect on the assumption the system spectrum remains constant and the shift is small.

With the above as background, Table 1 can be constructed showing how many canister-full contents can be accommodated in the water storage parallelepiped of 892,000 cc total volume. The canister contents are assumed to be 900 kg  $UO_8$  at density 10 grams/cc. No canister structural material or canister poison material is considered present in the storage volume.

TABLE 1

| Number of Canister Contents in Storage Volume | Volume $\text{UO}_2$<br>Volume $\text{H}_2\text{O}$         | $V_F/V_W$                               |
|---|---|---|
| 1   | 90,000 cc $\text{UO}_2$<br>802,000 cc $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  | .112                                    |
| 2   | 180,000 cc $\text{UO}_2$<br>712,000 cc $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ | .253                                    |
| 3   | 270,000 cc $\text{UO}_2$<br>622,000 cc $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ | $.434 \approx \frac{30}{70} (= .428)$   |
| 4   | 360,000 cc $\text{UO}_2$<br>532,000 cc $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ | .678                                    |
| 5   | 450,000 cc $\text{UO}_2$<br>442,000 cc $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ | 1.020                                   |
| 6   | 540,000 cc $\text{UO}_2$<br>352,000 cc $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ | $1.538 \approx \frac{60}{40} (= 1.500)$ |

This Table 1 shows that it will take about six canister contents to approach the optimum 60/40 ratio for borated systems and about only three canister contents to approach the optimum 30/70 for unborated systems.

The criticality analysis of the cases specified in Table 2 were modeled as cells as a discrete pellet region surrounded by its associated moderator close-fitting into the 18" x 18" cross-sectional area. This gave a  $\text{UO}_2$  mass loading of 2764 kg (vs 2700 = 3 x 900) for the 30/70 ratio and 5678 kg  $\text{UO}_2$  (vs 5400 = 6 x 900) for the 60/40 ratio due to the arithmetical discrepancies of fitting prescribed volume fractions into a fixed region. The 30/70 case is very slightly non-conservative, whereas, the 60/40 is quite conservative since more fuel is a more reactive situation here.



#### 4. Discussion of Results and Conservatism

Comparison of Cases 1 and 4 show that keff will decrease by 0.14 for the unborated case by increasing the fuel by a factor of 2 in line with maximum reactivity for the 30/70 mixture. For the borated cases, a comparison of Cases 2 and 5 and Cases 3 and 6, an increase in keff of 0.14 and 0.19 results respectively by increasing the fuel by a factor of 2 in line with maximum reactivity for the 60/40 mixture.

Case 6 represents approximately six canister-fulls filling the storage volume at the most reactive mixture 60/40 for 4350 ppm boron in the storage water. If one considers the canister poisons and structural materials as well as the core (canister contents) material to contain control-rod poisons, fixed poisons, core structure material, fission products and lower average core enrichment, all the tabulated keffs of Table 2 can be decreased by at least 0.10. Since only 2 canister contents represent the accident conditions, subcriticality is assured by a large margin.

In addition, Case 7 represents a 14 foot deep infinite slab of Case 6 contents with a resulting keff of 1.085.

Case 3 of Table 2 rerun as an infinite system in the X-Y-Z direction, gave a  $k_{\infty}$  of 0.8021.

Case 7 of Table 2 rerun as an infinite system in the X-Y-Z direction, gave a  $k_{\infty}$  of 1.095.

TABLE 2

KENO K<sub>eff</sub>'s for an 18 inch x 18 inch x 14 feet Parallelepiped Canister  
Storage Volume Containing Most Reactive U(3)O<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O Mixture  
(for boron concentrations of zero, 3000 ppm and 4350 ppm in water)

| KENO Case No. | PPM Boron | V <sub>fuel</sub> /V <sub>water</sub> | k <sub>eff</sub> (a)(b) | Contents of Storage Volume (c)<br>(18"x18"x168"=31.5ft <sup>3</sup> =8.92x10 <sup>5</sup> cm <sup>3</sup> ) |
|---------------|-----------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| 1             | 0         | 30/70                                 | 1.239                   | 2764 kg U(3)O <sub>2</sub> ; 618 kg H <sub>2</sub> O<br>zero gms boron                                      |
| 2             | 3000      | 30/70                                 | 0.775                   | 1893 gms boron  |
| 3             | 4350      | 30/70                                 | 0.677                   | 2746 gms boron  |
| 4             | 0         | 60/40                                 | 1.099                   | 5678 kg U(3)O <sub>2</sub> ; 362 kg H <sub>2</sub> O<br>zero gms boron                                      |
| 5             | 3000      | 60/40                                 | 0.918                   | 1113 gms boron  |
| 6             | 4350      | 60/40                                 | 0.871                   | 1614 gms boron  |
| 7             | 4350      | 60/40                                 | K-INF(X-Y)<br>1.085 (d) | 5678 kg U(3)O <sub>2</sub> ; 362 kg H <sub>2</sub> O<br>1614 gms boron                                      |

(a) to within  $\pm 0.003$  for 1 std. dev.

(b) all cases (except No. 7) reflected by 1 foot all around appropriate borated-water reflector.

(c) storage volume does not contain any structural (internal and external) canister materials or canister poisons.

(d) reflected top and bottom, 2 direction by 1 foot of borated water.

Charles R. Marotta

Dr. Thomas Murley  
Regional Administrator, Region I  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
631 Park Avenue  
King of Prussia, PA 19406

John F. Wolfe, Esq., Chairman,  
Administrative Judge  
3409 Shepherd St.  
Chevy Chase, MD. 20815

Dr. Oscar M. Paris  
Administrative Judge  
Atomic Safety and Licensing  
Board Panel  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dr. Frederick H. Shon  
Administrative Judge  
Atomic Safety and Licensing  
Board Panel  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Karin W. Carter  
Assistant Attorney General  
505 Executive House  
P.O. Box 2357  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dr. Judith H. Johnsrud  
Environmental Coalition on  
Nuclear Power  
433 Orlando Ave.  
State College, PA 16801

George F. Trowbridge, Esq.  
Shaw, Pittman, Potts and  
Trowbridge  
1800 M. St., NW.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal Panel  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Secretary  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
ATTN: Chief, Docketing & Service Branch  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Mr. Larry Hochendoner  
Dauphin County Commissioner  
P.O. Box 1295  
Harrisburg, PA 17108-1295

John E. Minnich, Chairperson,  
Dauphin County Board of Commissioners  
Dauphin County Courthouse  
Front and Market Streets  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dauphin County Office of Emergency  
Preparedness  
Court House, Room 7  
Front & Market Streets  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region III Office  
ATTN: EIS Coordinator  
Curtis Building (Sixth Floor)  
6th & Walnut Streets  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Thomas M. Gerushy, Director  
Bureau of Radiation Protection  
Department of Environmental Resources  
P.O. Box 2063  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Den Kennedy  
Office of Environmental Planning  
Department of Environmental Resources  
P.O. Box 2063  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Willis Bixby, Site Manager  
U.S. Department of Energy  
P.O. Box 88  
Middletown, PA 17057-0311

David J. McGoff  
Division of Three Mile Island Programs  
ME-23  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Washington, D.C. 20545

William Lochstet  
104 Coney Laboratory  
Pennsylvania State University  
University Park, PA 16802

Randy Myers, Editorial  
The Patriot  
812 Market St.  
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Robert B. Borsum  
Babcock & Wilcox  
Nuclear Power Generation Division  
Suite 220  
7910 Woodmont Ave.  
Bethesda, MD. 20814

Michael Churchill, Esq.  
PILCOP  
1315 Walnut St., Suite 1632  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Linda W. Little  
5000 Hermitage DR.  
Raleigh, NC 27612

Mervin I. Lewis  
6504 Bradford Terrace  
Philadelphia, PA 19149

Jane Lee  
183 Valley Rd.  
Etters, PA 17319

J.B. Liberman, Esquire  
Berlack, Israel, Liberman  
26 Broadway  
New York, NY 10004

Walter W. Cohen, Consumer Advocate  
Department of Justice  
Strawberry Square, 14th Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17127

Edward O. Swartz  
Board of Supervisors  
Londonderry Township  
RFD #1 Geyers Church Rd.  
Middletown, PA 17057

Robert L. Knupp, Esquire  
Assistant Solicitor  
Knupp and Andrews  
P.O. Box P  
407 N. Front St.  
Harrisburg, PA 17108

John Levin, Esquire  
Pennsylvania Public Utilities Comm.  
P.O. Box 3265  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Mr. Edwin Kintner  
Executive Vice President  
General Public Utilities Nuclear Corp.  
100 Interpace Parkway  
Parsippany, NJ 07054

Ad Erable  
Lancaster Now Era  
6 West King Street  
Lancaster, PA 17602