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REFERRED TO Howard

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MR. D. HOWARD
Wastes and Decommissioning Division
Atomic Energy Control Board
280 Slater Street
Ottawa, Ontario
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CCEA AECB
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Dear Mr. Howard:

Bruce Used Fuel Dry Storage Project Update

References:
1. OHN letter from G. Ezers to R. M. Duncan, "BUFDSP – Application for a Construction Licence", October 7, 1996.
2. OHN Letter from D. Catizzone to D. Howard, "Bruce Used Fuel Dry Storage Project Update", September 25, 1997.

In Reference 1, Ontario Hydro requested a construction approval for the Bruce Used Fuel Dry Storage Project (BUFDSP). In Reference 2, we informed you that the in-service date for the project had been delayed due to Ontario Hydro's decision to lay up Bruce NGS A and to review additional options for moving fuel from Bruce A and B fuel bays to dry storage containers. The regulatory process for construction approval has, therefore, been on hold, with the exception of the environmental assessment and review process, which is ongoing.

We have now completed the previously announced study of system design options and are ready to resume the regulatory process to obtain approval for construction of the Bruce Used Fuel Dry Storage Facility and related modifications to the Bruce Nuclear Generating Stations. The new in-service date for the dry storage facility is mid-2002, and the construction and station modifications approval is required by January 2000.

Based on the System Design Study recently completed, we have chosen to pursue the design option described below:

The system design for storage of used fuel from Bruce A and B Nuclear Generating Stations uses the Pickering Dry Storage Container (DSC). Fuel will be transferred from trays into modules. Each container will be wet-loaded with four modules in a small third bay, adjacent to the existing secondary fuel bay at each station, which will be specifically built for this purpose. The third bay at Bruce A/B will use the existing structural feature for bay extension in each secondary bay. During wet-loading of a DSC, the third bay will be connected to the secondary bay via the existing provision for extension. During lowering/lifting of a DSC, however, the two bays will be isolated from each other. Other salient features of this design include:

- replacing the existing crane in the secondary bay with a crane of minimum 100 ton capacity
- decontaminating the container within the third bay using built-in water sprayers, thereby eliminating movement of the container from the third bay into a separate decontamination pit
- installing impact pads at strategic locations in and around the third bay to protect the DSC in case of an accidental drop
- in a location adjacent to the third bay, draining the container, vacuum-drying, and fitting it with a specially designed clamp for on-site transfer from the bay to the dry storage facility

Each loaded container will be transported individually to the dry storage facility. The facility location will remain as originally intended, adjacent to the existing Radioactive Waste Operations Site 2. The facility will house a workshop area to prepare the containers for storage and an indoor storage area, similar to the Pickering Used Fuel Dry Storage Facility.

Further design details will be provided to you in accordance with the regulations as the design progresses.

The new system design will be communicated to the public in BUFDSP Newsletter #6.

As a first step in this regulatory approval process, Ontario Hydro staff will be meeting with you on October 15, 1998 to establish the pre-requisites for obtaining construction and station modifications approval. Should you have any questions on the above, please contact Atika Khan at (416) 592-7836.

Yours truly,

K. E. Nash
Vice-President
Nuclear Waste Management

cc Mr. R. Gerdingh - AECB (Tiverton)