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M. Hele

US Spent Fuel Team Daily Fax

Tuesday, April 30, 1996

TO: CHERIE FITZGERALD, US DOE NN-42 1 202 586 2323

FROM: KEN AMES, COE SITE MONITOR 850 2 381 2473

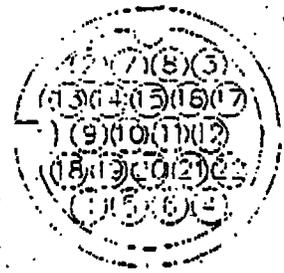
Daily Action Item List

- Work station #4
 - Remove rods from basket #105 and clean.
 - After measurement, place cans in gridded canister 71 or open canister 0-1.
 - When gridded canister is full, install lid, move to overpack, and begin conditioning.
- Work station #2

This morning was a marathon meeting to address the problems which surfaced yesterday. Since fuel movement issues were involved, no fuel was moved during the meeting. During the morning, several canister lids were prepped and a jib crane base was positioned on the bridge crane. But toward the end of the morning, the canning operators had run out of work.

The first item addressed in the meeting was the acceptance criteria for broken rods. Permissible rod weight will be calculated by multiplying actual length divided by 60cm times 5.6 kilograms. For the 53cm rod we encountered yesterday, the permissible weight would be 4.95kg. The gross gamma threshold will be the same as for a complete rod.

The next issue was re-verification of rods left unattended in open canisters. The IAEA position is that if any rods are left in an open can during a work break or overnight, one can be selected at random by the IAEA for re-verification. Due to the design of the canisters, the first four rods loaded (see diagram with loading sequence at right) are virtually impossible to remove because the canister flange interferes with any attempt to re-grapple the fuel rod. Rods 5-12 can also be hard to get if any of the adjacent rods 13-22 are loaded because the latter rods stick up higher and can interfere with the grapple. We have asked the DPRK to discuss with the IAEA the possibility of securing the fuel rod grapples with seal wire during breaks to assure that no fuel has been moved. Failing that, we may be able to change the loading sequence in such a way that any rod is available until the canister is at least half full. In any case, we have passed back a request to the IAEA that if a rod is to be re-



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of the first four positions, so the IAEA said that meant four rods could not be verified. Next they picked rod number 10. George Jackson was in the process of removing rods 14, 15, 19, and 20 so that rod 10 could be accessed. After about 15 minutes, when he had grappled rod 19, the IAEA said there was proof of a good-faith effort and to just re-verify number 19. The next goal was to pick the nearly-bare 53-cm rod examined yesterday to stick in the last hole which was partially occluded by a bent rod so that the can could be sealed with 22 rods inside. It proved very difficult to grapple, but by 5:30pm it was in the can and the process of installing the lid began. By the end of the day, there were twelve rods loaded into canister 79 at work station #2. At the request of the DPRK, we stopped work at 7:15pm so the Korean workers could get home to prepare for the holiday.

This morning there was ample hot water and the lights were on. There were no interruptions in power at the site.

Stephanie Eshelman and I will be traveling to Pyongyang tomorrow to meet with Ake Lovquist.

JSP JMV GMJ JMN SKE MPM DFP LGH KRA