D000 13739

TRANSFERRED TO OTHER AGENCY
TRANSFER FOR DIRECT REPLY - DOE

CHRON

US Spent Fuel Team Daily Fax (2p.) **Friday, May 3, 1996**

TO: CHERIE FITZGERALD, US DOE NN-42 1 202 586 2323 FROM: KEN AMES, DOE SITE MONITOR 850 2 381 2473

9N168A

Daily Action Item List

- Work station #2
  - Condition canister 79 - finished - our second real can!
- Work station #1
  - Continue loading fuel rods into open canister - only a few done before a rod broke in the cleaning station.
- Jib cranes on bridge
  - Continue mounting second jib crane.
- Work station #4
  - Begin loading fuel rods into open canister - only a few done before a rod broke in the cleaning station.

Work started promptly at 8am as planned. About 9am, the Chief Engineer came in to discuss several issues. First was movement of baskets in pool #2. He has worked out a plan that will make space for the empty baskets as they're returned to pool #2. He also mentioned the spilled rods in pool #2 and the need to vacuum where there may be loose rods so that they can be recovered. We have not yet discussed who will provide the manpower for sludge vacuuming, but since we will be vacuuming only small areas at any given time, we should be able to fit this work in when a canister is being conditioned. Our plan now is to have work station #4 operated by U.S. personnel and the others operated by site personnel. During the next week, we will be carefully evaluating how well this plan works. This afternoon, basket moving had already started and visibility in the pool rapidly deteriorated. In the afternoon meeting, the Chief Engineer asked us to instruct his

DOES NOT CONTAIN UNCLASSIFIED CONTROLLED NUCLEAR INFORMATION

fitting to insert further into the gripper. We determined that allowing another 20mm of rod into the gripper was achievable and I made an AutoCAD sketch to show how it would be done. The other idea we had was some kind of strength test that could include hitting the rod against the side of the basket to assure that the top fitting and cladding was strong enough to survive cleaning, verifying, and canning. The Chief Engineer said that his operators were working on their own idea, but that it wouldn't be ready until the 5pm meeting. We asked him whether he had access to a machine shop for modifying the grapple part since it will be a tedious job if Jeff has to do it by drilling a pilot hole and grinding it out. In the afternoon meeting, he asked us to have Jeff go ahead and modify the grippers. In the evening Jeff looked at the grapple and figured out a much easier way to modify it to achieve the goal of a lower grip on the rod.

But since then, we've had two rods break in cleaning stations #1 and #4. I don't know whether this rash of breaking rods is typical of what we'll face for the remainder of the project, or if we've just had a string of bad luck. Improper grappling technique may have been a contributing factor in the last breakage, but it wasn't in the first two. In any case,