

Hérouville-Saint-Clair, May 15th, 2006

Mr Director
of the COGEMA
site of La Hague
50444 BEAUMONT HAGUE CEDEX

SUBJECT : Checking of the basic nuclear sites.
Inspection nb INS-2006-ARELHF-0020 on April 27th, 2006.
Wastes – Quality insurance of the nuclear waste parcels

N/REF : DEP-DSNR CAEN/0318/2006.

Mr Director,

Within the frame of the monitoring of the basic nuclear sites defined in article 11 of the modified decree nb 63-1228 dated December 11th, 1963, and in article 17 of the decree nb 93-1272 dated December 1st, 1993, a programmed inspection took place on April 27th, 2006 at the AREVA – NC of La Hague site.

I am writing to communicate to you the inspection synthesis underneath, as well as the resulting main demands and observations.

Inspection synthesis

The inspection of April 27th, 2006 focused on the nuclear waste parcels, with the underlying theme of the conformity with the quality order of August 10th, 1984.

The inspectors covered and examined the implementation of the arrangements made by the running operator to insure the quality of the nuclear waste parcels type C0, CBF-C1, CBF-C2 produced in the AD2 workshop. In particular, the inspectors examined the production assessments, the Quality-Product referentials, the audits realized by the national Agency for the nuclear wastes management (Agence nationale pour la gestion des déchets radioactifs or ANDRA) as well as the suppliers' quality.

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Considering the results of this inspection, it appears that the arrangements implemented by the running operator to insure the quality of the nuclear waste parcels C0, CBF-C1 et CBF-C2 seemed satisfactory.

This inspection did not lead to note a significant deviation.

A. Demands for Corrective Actions

A.1. Periodic checking of the CBF-C1 parcels **peson**

The weighing of CBF-C1 parcels is one of parameters of the quality check program. In order to realize periodic checks, a weekly check and an annual standardization of the **captor with a constraint gauge on the bridge** 8434-1020 are realized.

The latest weekly check of the **peson** presented by the running operator dated April 24th, 2006 indicate an acceptable mass tolerance of +/- 4 %.

However, the memo presenting the weekly checks realized by the running operator of sector DI/TD (HAG 5 7380 94 02996 13 of March 2005) indicates an acceptable tolerance of +/- 2 %.

I ask you to:

- **communicate to me the tolerance you consider and the potential consequences on the quality of the waste parcels produced,**
- **to make the applicable documents coincide with the considered tolerance.**

B. Complementary Information

B.2. C0 parcels shipment

During the examination of the assessment of the waste parcels shipment to the CSA disposal site, it appeared that the C0 parcels shipments in 2004 and 2005 were respectively of 974 and 1595. The running operator indicated that this increase was partly due to the shipment at the beginning of 2005, of an important number of C0 parcels produced at the end of 2004.

I ask you to give a more precise explanation of the significant increase of the number of C0 parcels shipped to the ANDRA (Centre de stockage de l'Aube) between 2004 and 2005.

B.3. Limited number of aluminium **galettes** in CBF-C1 parcels

The running operator indicated to the inspectors that the number of barrels **galettes** containing aluminium in the CBF-C1 parcels is limited to one. The running operator added that during the years 2002 and 2003, it had noted the production of several CBF-C1 containing more than one barrel **galette** with aluminium.

I ask you to precise:

- **the processing of these CBF-C1 from a quality insurance point of view for the parcels**
- **the organizational and technical arrangements you are currently implementing in order to limit the number of aluminium-containing barrels in the CBF-C1 parcels.**

B.4. Follow-up tools of the deviances identified during the ANDRA audits

Regarding the audits realized by the ANDRA, the running operator presented to the inspectors a computer tool which enables him to follow up the corrective actions implemented after the ANDRA noted some deviances. The inspectors verified throughout samplings the effectiveness of some corrective actions implemented.

However, following the audits, the ANDRA also formulated some recommendations and remarks which were not systematically the object of actions and which were not taken into account by the computer tools following up the deviations.

I ask you to precise how you insure the **traçabilité of whether or not the ANDRA recommendations and remarks following the audits were taken into account.**

C. Observations

C.5. Containers Loading Unit (Unité de Chargement des Conteneurs or UCC) – Access to the control zone

While accessing the control zone of the UCC area, the inspectors observed the presence of a sign indicating the obligation for the workers to wear only a passive **dosimeter**.

But in application of the Work Code, the workers who intervene in the control zone must be equipped both with a passive and an **operational dosimeter**.

I ask you to:

- **precise the radioprotection information you signify through postings at the entrance of the control zones of your site.**
- **indicate if you are considering precisising the obligation to wear an operational dosimeter at the entrance of the control zone of the UCC.**

C.6. Lack of finitions in the B 541.2 premises

In the B 541.2 premises of the AD2 workshop, the inspectors have observed that the civil constructions had been realized in the premises and that the finitions like the painting of the veils remained to be done. The running operator precised that the civil constructions had been finished for at least three years and that no finitions were planned.

I ask you to plan the realization of the finitions in the B 541.2 premises and the potential premises concerned by this civil construction.

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You will transfer me your observations and reply regarding these points within **two months** at the most. Regarding the commitments you will be led to make, I ask you to identify them clearly and to precise, for each one of them, the deadline of its realization.

Sincerely yours.

For the Director and by delegation,
The Division Officer,
Olivier TERNEAUD