

August 14, 2013

Dr. J. Sam Armijo, Chairman
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS
LETTER, DATED JULY 18, 2013, ON THE SPENT FUEL POOL STUDY

Dear Dr. Armijo:

I am responding to your letter of July 18, 2013, in which you provided the comments of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) on the staff's draft Spent Fuel Pool Study (SFPS) that was presented to the ACRS on July 9, 2013. The purpose of this consequence study was to determine if accelerated transfer of spent fuel from the spent fuel pool at a reference plant to dry cask storage significantly reduces risks to public health and safety.

The staff notes the ACRS' overall observation that the SFPS provides a technically sound basis for the staff's conclusion that expedited transfer of spent fuel from the pool to dry cask storage does not provide a substantial safety enhancement for the reference plant. We agree with your conclusions and recommendations and will take them into consideration as staff continues their work. The staff plans to issue the final study after consideration of public comments on the draft. The study will be used as part of a broader regulatory analysis of the spent fuel pools at United States operating nuclear reactors as part of our Japan Lessons-Learned Tier 3 plan. The study's results will help inform the Commission's evaluation of moving spent fuel from spent fuel pools to dry storage sooner than current practice.

We appreciate the ACRS review and feedback on the draft study.

Sincerely,

/RA/

R. W. Borchardt
Executive Director
for Operations

cc: Chairman Macfarlane
Commissioner Svinicki
Commissioner Apostolakis
Commissioner Magwood
Commissioner Ostendorff
SECY

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