

April 21, 2016

Dr. Dennis C. Bley, 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, "CLOSURE OF FUKUSHIMA TIER 3 RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO CONTAINMENT VENTS, HYDROGEN CONTROL, AND ENHANCED INSTRUMENTATION," DATED MARCH 15, 2016

Dear Dr. Bley:

I am responding to your letter dated March 15, 2016 (Agencywide Documents Access Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML16075A330), in which the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) provided its conclusions and recommendations concerning the closure of Fukushima-related recommendations on containment vents, hydrogen control, and enhanced instrumentation. The staff greatly appreciated receiving these insights when finalizing the assessments that were provided to the Commission in SECY-16-0041, "Closure of Fukushima Tier 3 Recommendations Related to Containment Vents Hydrogen Control and Enhanced Instrumentation," dated March 31, 2016 (ADAMS Accession No. ML16049A079).

In your letter, you indicated that the ACRS agrees with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's assessment that no further regulatory actions are warranted for closure of the Fukushima-related recommendations related to containment venting, hydrogen control, and enhanced instrumentation. Regarding the recommendations in your letter, the staff will, to the extent practical, use ongoing projects, and future activities defined by the NRC's research needs to further understand possible mechanisms and pathways for the release of hydrogen from primary containments into surrounding structures, including the consequences of hydrogen combustion. The staff will also continue to participate on standards committees, revise applicable regulatory guidance, and actively engage in ongoing activities related to the development and possible deployment of enhanced severe accident instrumentation.

D. Bley

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We appreciate the ACRS's review of the staff's assessments for containment venting, hydrogen control, and enhanced instrumentation. We look forward to continued engagement with ACRS as we complete the agency's remaining Fukushima-related activities.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Victor M. McCree  
Executive Director  
for Operations

cc: Chairman Burns  
Commissioner Svinicki  
Commissioner Ostendorff  
Commissioner Baran  
SECY

D. Bley

- 2 -

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**/RA/**

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SECY

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**ADAMS Accession Nos.:**

**Package – ML16078A014**

**Letter – ML16075A330**

**Response – ML16097A541**

**\*via email**

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