

August 18, 1999

MEMORANDUM TO: John W. Craig, Director
Division of Engineering Technology
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

FROM: Gary M. Holahan, Director /s/ T. Collins for:
Division of System Safety and Analysis
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF DRAFT TECHNICAL STUDY OF SPENT
FUEL POOL ACCIDENTS FOR DECOMMISSIONING PLANTS
(TAC NO. MA5099)

The Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) is in the process of developing a risk-informed technical basis to establish a predictable approach for requesting and granting exemptions to licenses and to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of decommissioning regulations. We formed a technical working group (TWG) to perform a study of spent fuel pool accidents. A draft version of the study was provided in the report, "Draft Technical Study of Spent Fuel Pool Accidents for Decommissioning Plants." A public workshop was held on July 15 and 16, 1999, to discuss issues related to the report. With regard to the consideration of beyond design basis events, your staff and consultants provided very effective technical support and this led to the consensus that a seismic check list can be used to screen out plants from further review of seismic vulnerability.

The next phase of our effort in this area includes providing the stakeholders and other technical organizations with a technically sound set of attributes for the seismic check list. The concept of this check list was discussed in the staff's draft technical study, but it needs further refinement and practicality review. The assistance of your staff and consultants in the Engineering Research Applications Branch is requested to perform an independent review of the seismic part of the TWG's draft study and the input from the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) on the seismic check list. This need for technical assistance from your staff was discussed with you recently. A copy of the report and details regarding the requested review are attached. The NEI input on the seismic check list will be forwarded upon receipt. Please provide your recommendations in response to this request by November 19, 1999.

Attachments: As stated

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*See previous concurrence

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2. Provide recommendations on practical measures to mitigate the effects of seismic vulnerability that could be adopted by decommissioning plants as a defense-in-depth action.

We request that this work be performed by November 19, 1999, to support our overall project schedule.