

January 31, 2002

Larson R. Rogers
599 Wooden Lane
Elizabethtown, KY 42701

SUBJECT: GENERIC SAFETY ISSUE (GSI) -191, "ASSESSMENT OF DEBRIS
ACCUMULATION ON PRESSURIZED WATER REACTOR PUMP
PERFORMANCE"

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Thank you for your January 3, 2002, e-mail concerning the subject United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) technical assessment. Your concerns have been forwarded to the Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) technical staff for evaluation and will be reviewed.

On September 28, 2001, Mr. Ashok Thadani, Director of the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES), NRC, provided a memorandum to Mr. Samuel Collins, Director of NRR of the NRC. That memorandum provided RES' technical assessment for GSI-191. This issue deals with the possibility that debris could accumulate on the Emergency Core Cooling System (ECCS) sump screens resulting in a loss of net positive suction head (NPSH) margin. This memorandum is available for viewing using the NRC's recordkeeping system, ADAMS (Accession Number ML012750149).

Based on this technical assessment, RES determined that additional actions may be warranted to ensure adequate NPSH margin for Pressurized Water Reactor (PWR) ECCS pumps taking suction from the containment sump in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 50.46. The September 28, 2001, memorandum concluded with a recommendation that plant-specific analyses be conducted to determine whether debris accumulation in PWR containments will impede or prevent ECCS operation during recirculation. Consistent with NRC Management Directive 6.4, "Generic Issue Program," the office of NRR will evaluate RES's findings and prepare a plan for developing appropriate regulatory guidance and resolution for GSI-191. The RES staff will continue to assist NRR with the development of appropriate guidance for plant-specific analyses.

Additionally, the NRC will be conducting a public meeting with interested stakeholders when the NRR staff has completed its review of GSI-191. The public meeting will be conducted to discuss any industry initiatives that may be under development in response to RES's technical assessment of GSI-191 as documented in Los Alamos National Laboratory's report, "GSI-191: Parametric Evaluations for Pressurized Water Reactor Recirculation Sump Performance."

Sincerely,

/RA/

John G. Lamb, Lead Project Manager for GSI-191
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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John G. Lamb, Lead Project Manager for GSI-191
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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ADAMS Accession #: ML020310407

*See previous concurrence

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