

August 21, 2002

Lanson R. Rogers
599 Wooden Lane
Elizabethtown, KY 42701

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO LETTER DATED JULY 24, 2002, REGARDING GENERIC SAFETY ISSUE 191, "ASSESSMENT OF DEBRIS ACCUMULATION ON PRESSURIZED WATER REACTOR SUMP PERFORMANCE"

Dear Mr. Rogers:

I am writing this letter in response to your letter to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) dated July 24, 2002, in which you expressed certain concerns relating to Generic Safety Issue (GSI)-191, "Assessment of Debris Accumulation on Pressurized Water Reactor [PWR] Sump Performance."

In your July 24, 2002, letter, you restated previously raised concerns regarding the NRC's process for resolving GSI-191. You did not provide any specific details or bases for your concerns.

We have provided responses to your previous letters and e-mails regarding GSI-191. To reiterate, the NRC has an ongoing action plan to comprehensively address and resolve GSI-191. The action plan is updated on a quarterly basis and is publicly available. Please see the Director's Quarterly Status Report dated May 7, 2002, which is accessible from the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System's (ADAMS) Public Electronic Reading Room on the Internet at the NRC Web site, <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> using ADAMS Accession No. ML021050322). If you do not have access to ADAMS or encounter problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, please contact the NRC PDR Reference staff by telephone at 1-800-397-4209, 301-415-4737, or by e-mail to pdr@nrc.gov. This document is also available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland.

With respect to your concerns regarding coating interference problems, the NRC has extensively tested and analyzed the failure of containment coatings under postulated accident conditions. Based on the NRC's coatings evaluation, we believe that any failed coatings, in the absence of other types of debris (e.g., insulation), are unlikely to clog ECCS sumps. However, the GSI-191 study considered combinations of potential debris types and concluded that sump clogging is a credible safety concern for PWR plants; therefore, we are developing a Generic Letter (GL) that will task the licensees to evaluate the susceptibility of their plants to clogging (including coating debris).

L. Rogers

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As part of the resolution of GSI-191, the NRC staff will release a draft GL for public comment within the next few months. This public comment period will provide an opportunity for you to express any comments you may have on the draft GL.

We trust that this letter has been responsive to your concerns.

Sincerely,

/RA/

John G. Lamb, Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate III
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure: Letter from L. Rogers to NRC dated July 24, 2002

L. Rogers

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