

State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Bradley M. Campbell Commissioner

3/31/04

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Division of Environmental Safety and Health Radiation Protection and Release Prevention Element

Bureau of Nuclear Engineering P.O. Box 415

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June 18, 2004

Chief, Rules and Directives Branch Division of Administrative Services United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission Mail Stop T6-D59 Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Sir:

James E. McGreevey

Governor

Subject:

Comments on Draft Generic Letter Potential Impact of Debris Blockage on

Emergency Recirculation During Design Basis Accidents at Pressurized Water

Reactors March 31, 2004 Federal Register, Page 16980

The New Jersey Bureau of Nuclear Engineering (BNE) has reviewed the Draft Generic Letter entitled "Potential Impact of Debris Blockage on Emergency Recirculation During Design Basis Accidents at Pressurized Water Reactors". We also participated in two recent U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission meetings via teleconference May 19, May 25, and June 25 of this year. We also received Nuclear Energy Institute's PWR Containment Sump Evaluation Methodology May 28, 2004. Finally, we have ample experience with this issue for Boiling Water Reactors.

We support the issuance of this Generic Letter as written. We believe that the issue of debris blockage of PWR sumps is a significant safety concern and should be resolved on an expedited basis. Also, in light of travel restrictions, we are thankful to the U.S Nuclear Regulatory Commission for conducting meetings on this important topic via teleconference. With two Pressurized Water Reactors operating in New Jersey, teleconferencing provides us a direct means to participate in the process and become an active stakeholder for New Jersey citizens.

If you need to discuss this subject further please contact Dennis Zannoni at (609) 984-7440.

Sincerely.

Kent W. Tosch, Manager

Bureau of Nuclear Engineering

C: Dr. Jill Lipoti, DEP Dennis Zannoni, DEP

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