



NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE

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January 14, 2008

Mr. Nilesh C. Chokshi
Deputy Director, Division of Site and Environmental Review
Office of New Reactors
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Subject: Response to NRC Questions Regarding the Effects of High-Frequency Seismic Motions

Project Number: 689

Dear Mr. Chokshi:

The resolution of the High Frequency issue is critical in the support of the Combined License (COL) applications currently under review and planned for submission to the NRC in the near future. At the December 20, 2007 public meeting with the NRC staff, the industry described the effects of high-frequency (HF) seismic motions on nuclear plant systems, structures and components (SSCs) and provided proposed approaches to assure that future plant designs adequately address HF effects on potentially sensitive SSCs. Our presentation and analyses support the conclusion that HF seismic motions above 10 Hz are non-damaging to typical nuclear plant SSCs with the possible exception of HF sensitive components. During these discussions, the NRC staff requested additional information on several topics. The enclosure provides the additional information.

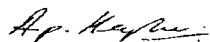
We look forward to the February 2008 public meeting, where we anticipate that these responses, in addition to the EPRI reports and previous technical presentations on this topic, will provide a sufficient basis to bring closure to the issue concerning the effects of HF on nuclear power plant SSCs. It is our understanding that the interim staff guidance document will be revised to support applicants and NRC staff as we go forward with application preparation and review.

In addition to the discussions on high frequency, we need to use the February meeting to clarify and resolve the NRC questions associated with the methodology for determining the site specific seismic hazard. These questions appear to question the Senior Seismic Hazard Advisory Committee (SSHAC) approach to achieving consensus on the seismic hazard for the Central and Eastern United States (CEUS).

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If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Leslie Kass at (202) 739-8115, lck@nei.org; or me.

Sincerely,



Adrian P. Heymer

Enclosures

c: Mr. Goutam Bagchi, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Ms. Rebecca Karas, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
NRC Document Control Desk