

March 20, 2008

MEMORANDUM TO: John A. Grobe, Associate Director
Engineering and Safety Systems
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Daniel Frumkin, Team Leader */RA/*
Fire Protection Branch
Division of Risk Assessment
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: MEETING SUMMARY OF THE FIRE PROTECTION
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MARCH 6, 2008

On Thursday March 6, 2008, the Fire Protection Steering Committee (FPSC)¹ met to discuss the resolution of the fire-induced circuit failure issue. All members of the committee were in attendance, J. Grobe, Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR), M. Cunningham (NRR), S. West Region III, C. Lui, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES), and S. Magruder Office of Enforcement (OE). In addition, C. Ader and R. Radlinski from Office of New Reactors (NRO), M. Salley from RES, and A. Klein, D. Frumkin and H. Barrett from the Fire Protection Branch of NRR were in attendance.

The following items were discussed:

- A presentation by the Fire Protection Branch of NRR (slides attached) on the fire-induced circuit failure issue and the recommended closure path.
- The December 2007 Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) proposal to close-out the issue.

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¹ The FPSC was formed by the NRC's Executive Director for Operations on October 19, 2007 (ADAMS Accession No. ML072640666), to facilitate resolution of key fire protection technical and regulatory issues, and to interface with the industry on those issues.

Two main action items:

1. The Fire Protection Branch staff will draft a letter to NEI describing the committee's views of their December proposal. Specifically, that although their proposal may have technical merit, it does not represent a compliance closure path for the circuit-failure issue.

2. The Fire Protection Branch will continue to develop an approach to close the circuit-failure issue. The committee suggested that this be in the form of a white paper. The approach will continue on a strict reading of the rule (10 CFR Part 50, Appendix R, Section III.G), that requires one train free of fire damage including its associated circuits that could prevent operation or cause maloperation. All other plant components that could affect the function of that train can be mitigated through additional means such as fire modeling, operator manual actions, circuit studies, etc. The Fire Protection Branch will share the more developed approach with NRR management, other NRC stakeholders (RES and NRO), and the FPSC.

The NRC staff intends to complete this activity by presenting a SECY (such as an affirmation or options paper) to the commission in accordance with the EDO completion date of June 24, 2008, for WITS 200600490.

Enclosures:

1. Attendance List – March 6, 2008
2. Meeting Slides

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DISTRIBUTION:

AKlein	MCunningham	SWest	CLui
SMagruder	CAder	RRadlinski	MSalley
DFrumkin	HBarrett		

ADAMS Accession Number: Package – ML080700087;

Memo – ML080700072

Enclosure 2 – ML080700066

OFFICE	NRR/DRA/AFP	BC:NRR/DRA/AFP	D:DRA/AFP
NAME	DFrumkin	AKlein	MCunningham
DATE	03 / 8 /08	03 / 8 /08	03 / 20 /08

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ATTENDANCE LIST
FIRE PROTECTION STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
March 6, 2008

	NAME	AFFILIATION
1	Jack Grobe*	NRR
2	Steve West*	Region III
3	Mark Cunningham*	NRR
4	Stu Magruder*	OE
5	Christiana Lui*	RES
6	Daniel Frumkin	NRR
7	Alex Klein	NRR
8	Charlie Ader	NRO
9	Harry Barrett	NRR
10	Bob Radlinski	NRO
11	Mark Henry Salley	RES

* Member of the Fire Protection Steering Committee