

August 7, 2008

Alexander Marion  
Executive Director  
Nuclear Operations and Engineering  
1776 I Street, NW, Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20006-3708

Dear Mr. Marion:

The purpose of this letter is to summarize the analytical approach that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will use to evaluate Generic Issue 199, "Implications of Updated Probabilistic Seismic Hazard Estimates in Central and Eastern United States on Existing Plants," under the Safety and Risk Assessment Stage of the Generic Issue Program, and to request information that may be of use in the analysis. The technical approach involves use of characteristics of the updated seismic hazard curves at nuclear power plant sites in the central and eastern United States, specifically  $K_I$  and  $K_H$  values, and fragility information, specifically  $C_{50}$  and  $\beta_C$ , to develop a point estimate of seismic core damage frequency (SCDF) using a simplified approach. The fragility information will be developed from either the seismic probabilistic risk analysis or seismic margin analysis results submitted by licensees as part of the Independent Plant Examination of External Events program. The SCDF estimates will be compared to estimates developed using previous hazard results (EPRI-SOG 1989 for example) to assess the significance of the changes in hazard using guidance outlined in NRC's Management Directive 6.4, "Generic Issues Program."

If determined significant, NRC will then perform the regulatory analysis of the Generic Issue Program according to the guidance contained in NUREG/BR-0058 Rev. 4, "Regulatory Analysis Guidelines of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission," to determine the appropriate regulatory response. Examples include rulemaking, issuance of a generic communication, or no action.

In the absence of updated plant specific information, the NRC will use the best available information which could lead to conservative assumptions in the analyses. Therefore, the NRC would like to offer you the opportunity to provide the following plant specific information:

Seismic hazard information presented in the form of hazard curves for several spectral frequencies (PGA, 10, 5, and 1 Hz) that includes the influence of the site conditions at each NPP site but does not include the Cumulative Absolute Velocity filter.

Relevant fragility information generated subsequent to the conduct of the IPEEE program.

It is necessary for the NRC to receive this information by August 31, 2008, to permit its use in the Safety and Risk Assessment Stage of the Generic Issue Program. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Jack Foster of my staff at (301) 415-6250 or [Jack.Foster@nrc.gov](mailto:Jack.Foster@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,  
*/RA/*

Christiana Lui, Director  
Division of Risk Analysis  
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

It is necessary for the NRC to receive this information by August 31, 2008, to permit its use in the Safety and Risk Assessment Stage of the Generic Issue Program. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Jack Foster of my staff at (301) 415-6250 or Jack.Foster@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,  
*/RA/*

Christiana Lui, Director  
Division of Risk Analysis  
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

**ADAMS Accession No.: ML082200290**

OFFICE	BC:RES/DRA/OEGIB	SUNSI Review	D:RES/DE
NAME	J.Foster	J.Foster	J.Uhle
DATE	08/07/08	08/07/08	08/07/08

**OFFICIAL RECORD COPY**