

December 4, 2008

Dr. William J. Shack, Chairman
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS
REPORT ON THE SAFETY ASPECTS OF THE LICENSE RENEWAL
APPLICATION FOR THE SHEARON HARRIS NUCLEAR POWER PLANT,
UNIT 1

Dear Dr. Shack:

During the 556th meeting of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS or the Committee), held on October 2-3, 2008, the Committee completed its review of the license renewal application (LRA) for the Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant (HNP), Unit 1, and the associated final safety evaluation report (SER) prepared by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff. In its final report, dated October 16, 2008, the Committee recommends renewal of the HNP operating license. The staff appreciates the Committee's expeditious review of the HNP LRA and associated SER.

The staff notes that the Committee's final report recommends that prior to the period of extended operation, the staff should inspect the applicant's programs for managing water intrusion into underground cable vaults and for performing cable insulation testing. The SER includes a commitment for the applicant to implement an aging management program for inaccessible medium voltage cables not subject to the applicant's 10 CFR 50.49 environmental qualifications program. This program will include periodic inspections of manholes (i.e., underground cable vaults) for water accumulation and periodic testing of cables exposed to moisture. This commitment is required to be implemented prior to the period of extended operation. A license condition, to be included in the HNP renewed operating license (if granted), will require the applicant to notify the NRC when implementation of this and all license renewal commitments is complete. The staff will consider inspecting completed license renewal commitments in accordance with NRC Inspection Procedure 71003, "Post-Approval Site Inspection for License Renewal," based in part on the risk significance of the commitments and the extent to which the commitments would otherwise be inspected under the NRC's baseline inspection program.

Additionally, the staff is generically reviewing the impacts that exposing medium voltage cables to a water environment has on both the continued operability of the cables as well as the aging management programs for these cables.

W. Shack

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The staff recognizes the ACRS's commitment to safety and appreciates the Committee's continued support of the license renewal process.

Sincerely,

/RA/

R. W. Borchardt
Executive Director
for Operations

cc: Chairman Klein
Commissioner Jaczko
Commissioner Lyons
Commissioner Svinicki
SECY

W. Shack

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The staff recognizes the ACRS's commitment to safety and appreciates the Committee's continued support of the license renewal process.

Sincerely,
/RA/

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Executive Director
for Operations

cc: Chairman Klein
Commissioner Jaczko
Commissioner Lyons
Commissioner Svinicki
SECY

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