August 17, 2010

MEMORANDUM TO: Edwin Hackett, Executive Director
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards

FROM: Patrick Hiland, Director ***/RA/***
Division of Engineering
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: DIGITAL INSTRUMENTATION & CONTROLS INTERIM STAFF GUIDANCE NO. 6, "LICENSING PROCESS"

Please find the attached final draft of Digital Instrumentation and Controls Interim Staff Guidance No. 6 (DI&C-ISG-06), "Licensing Process," for the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) review in preparations for our presentation of this ISG at the October 2010 ACRS meeting. The ACRS provided comments on an earlier version of the ISG in April 2009 and the staff has incorporated these comments into the final draft version. The attached version addresses all internal comments received to date and other editorial changes.

The DI&C-ISG-06 was developed by Task Working Group No.6, of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) DI&C Steering Committee in response to concerns raised by the nuclear industry associated with the complexity and challenges with the licensing of DI&C systems for use in current generation nuclear power plants, using the current regulatory review process. This ISG is designed to complement the current review guidance by providing a complete guide for what information is needed to support a regulatory review, when it is needed, and how it will be reviewed. This ISG should allow licensees to prepare DI&C upgrade applications that are complete with respect to the current scope of review established in Chapter 7 for the Standard Review Plan (NUREG-0800).

The DI&C-ISG-06 provides clarification as to the scope of information that is required for the NRC staff to review DI&C upgrades at operating plants. The DI&C-ISG-06 divides the licensing review process into four phases; Phase 0 – Pre-Application Meetings, Phase 1 – Initial Application, Phase 2 – Continued Review and Audit, and Phase 3 – Implementation and Inspection. Within this structure, the ISG lays out three review tiers, each corresponding to an expected level of complexity and correspondingly higher level of review.

The contact for DISG-ISG-06 is Norbert Carte (301-415-5890, norbert.carte@nrc.gov) of my staff. Please contact him if you need additional information associated with the draft final ISG or the presentation to the ACRS.

cc: C. Antonescu, ACRS

CONTACT: Norbert Carte, NRR/DE/EICB
(301) 415-5890

August 17, 2010

MEMORANDUM TO: Edwin Hackett, Executive Director
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards

FROM: Patrick Hiland, Director ***/RA/***
Division of Engineering
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: DIGITAL INSTRUMENTATION & CONTROLS INTERIM STAFF GUIDANCE NO. 6, "LICENSING PROCESS"

Please find the attached final draft of Digital Instrumentation and Controls Interim Staff Guidance No. 6 (DI&C-ISG-06), "Licensing Process," for the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) review in preparations for our presentation of this ISG at the October 2010 ACRS meeting. The ACRS provided comments on an earlier version of the ISG in April 2009 and the staff has incorporated these comments into the final draft version. The attached version addresses all internal comments received to date and other editorial changes.

The DI&C-ISG-06 was developed by Task Working Group No.6, of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) DI&C Steering Committee in response to concerns raised by the nuclear industry associated with the complexity and challenges with the licensing of DI&C systems for use in current generation nuclear power plants, using the current regulatory review process. This ISG is designed to complement the current review guidance by providing a complete guide for what information is needed to support a regulatory review, when it is needed, and how it will be reviewed. This ISG should allow licensees to prepare DI&C upgrade applications that are complete with respect to the current scope of review established in Chapter 7 for the Standard Review Plan (NUREG-0800).

The DI&C-ISG-06 provides clarification as to the scope of information that is required for the NRC staff to review DI&C upgrades at operating plants. The DI&C-ISG-06 divides the licensing review process into four phases; Phase 0 – Pre-Application Meetings, Phase 1 – Initial Application, Phase 2 – Continued Review and Audit, and Phase 3 – Implementation and Inspection. Within this structure, the ISG lays out three review tiers, each corresponding to an expected level of complexity and correspondingly higher level of review.

The contact for DISG-ISG-06 is Norbert Carte (301-415-5890, norbert.carte@nrc.gov) of my staff. Please contact him if you need additional information associated with the draft final ISG or the presentation to the ACRS.

cc: C. Antonescu, ACRS

CONTACT: Norbert Carte, NRR/DE/EICB
(301) 415-5890

DISTRIBUTION:

Public	TSB R/F	ADias, ACRS
CAntonescu, ACRS	EMiller, NRR	NCarte, NRR
LJames, NRR	WKemper, NRR	PHiland, NRR

ADAMS Accession Package No. ML102310009 **ISG ML102310002**
Memo Accession No. ML102230243 ***via e-mail**

OFFICE	NRR/DORL/PM	NRR/DE/EICB/TR	NRR/DPR/APOB/BC	NRR/DE/EICB/BC	NRR/DE/D
NAME	GEMiller*	NCarte	LJames	WKemper (DRahn for)	PHiland
DATE	8/11/10	8/12/10	8/16/10	8/12/10	8/17/10

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY