

June 1, 2011

Dr. Said Abdel-Khalik, Chairman
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO THE APRIL 19, 2011, ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS LETTER REGARDING COMPARISON OF INTEGRATED SAFETY ANALYSIS AND PROBABILISTIC RISK ASSESSMENT AND POSSIBLE REVISIONS TO THE FUEL CYCLE OVERSIGHT PROCESS

Dear Dr. Abdel-Khalik:

In your letter of April 19, 2011, you recommended that the staff continue to develop and test probabilistic risk assessment (PRA) type analyses to help assess the significance of inspection findings. The letter also expressed that the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards would like an opportunity to review the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the Commission paper on enhancing the Fuel Cycle Oversight Process (FCOP), prior to its transmission to the Commission.

Although the Commission paper is still under development, it will primarily provide recommendations for a process to develop and test changes to risk-inform the FCOP and seek further Commission direction. The changes themselves, particularly those with a technical dimension which would be of interest to the Committee, remain to be developed. The paper will provide a status of the activities that have been conducted to give licensees credit for effective corrective action programs and to develop cornerstones. It will also provide insights into the development of a Fuel Cycle Significance Determination Process (SDP). Limited effort has been expended to date to consider elements of an SDP beyond what was described in Section V of the staff's Integrated Safety Analysis- PRA comparison paper dated December 15, 2010. The technical details of the SDP would be developed when and if the Commission approves the staff's recommended process for enhancing FCOP.

S. Abdel-Khalik

- 2 -

The staff looks forward to briefing the Committee on the process and status envisioned for development of an enhanced FCOP prior to transmission of the staff's recommendation to the Commission.

Sincerely,

/RA Michael Weber for/

R. W. Borchardt
Executive Director
for Operations

cc: Chairman Jaczko
Commissioner Svinicki
Commissioner Apostolakis
Commissioner Magwood
Commissioner Ostendorff
SECY

S. Abdel-Khalik

- 2 -

The staff looks forward to briefing the Committee on the process and status envisioned for development of an enhanced FCOP prior to transmission of the staff's recommendation to the Commission.

Sincerely,

/RA Michael Weber for/

R. W. Borchardt
Executive Director
for Operations

cc: Chairman Jaczko
Commissioner Svinicki
Commissioner Apostolakis
Commissioner Magwood
Commissioner Ostendorff
SECY

DISTRIBUTION: G20110284/EDATS: OEDO-2011-0281
FCSS r/f RidsAcrsAcnw_MailCtr

ML111330195

OFFICE	NMSS/FCSS	NMSS/FCSS	QTE	NMSS/FCSS	NMSS/FCSS	NMSS	EDO
NAME	DDamon	MKotzalas	Via email	MBailey	JKinneman	CHaney L. Kokajko for	RBorchardt (MWeber for)
DATE	5/16/11	5/16/11	5/16/11	5/16/11	5/16/11	5/19/11	6/01/11

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY