



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV
612 EAST LAMAR BLVD, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4125

June 29, 2011

Col. Robert J. Ruch, Commander
Omaha District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
1616 Capitol Avenue
Suite 900
Omaha, NE 68102

SUBJECT: REQUEST DAM BREAK ANALYSIS FOR MISSOURI RIVER MAIN STEM SYSTEM

Dear Col. Ruch:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Region IV office performs oversight and inspection of two nuclear power plants in Nebraska, Fort Calhoun Station and Cooper Nuclear Plant. Nuclear power plants are designed to be safe and operated without significant effect on public health and safety and the environment. Each nuclear power plant has multiple redundant systems to ensure adequate cooling of the reactor. These systems and other safety features provide the "defense in depth" to ensure nuclear safety. One of the methods the NRC uses to provide a structured analytical process to assess the adequacy of these systems and plant design features is probabilistic risk assessment (PRA). The NRC has made use of PRA methods to address complex safety issues and make risk-informed decisions regarding nuclear safety. In addition, the NRC uses PRA to provide increased assurance of the plant structures and facilities under specific conditions, such as earthquakes, tsunamis, or flooding.

We understand that USACE has performed certain analyses on unsteady flow routing and dam break analyses for Missouri River Main Stem System (System) dams. The analyses performed by the USACE would be beneficial to NRC's PRA assessment for specific flooding conditions at Fort Calhoun Station and Cooper Nuclear Power Plant and verification of the licensee's PRA analyses.

Specifically, the NRC is requesting a copy by CD/DVD of the following six reports:

1. "Gavins Point Dam, Missouri River, Critical Infrastructure Security Program, Dam Failure Analyses, H&H Methodology Report and Consequences Summary," dated October 2009;
2. "Fort Randall Dam, Missouri River, Pickstown, South Dakota, Critical Infrastructure Security Program, Dam Failure Analyses, H&H Methodology Report and Consequences Summary," dated February 2010;
3. "Big Bend Dam, Missouri River, Fort Thompson, South Dakota, "Critical Infrastructure Protection and Resilience Program, Dam Failure Analyses, H&H Methodology Report and Consequences Summary," dated October 2010;


4. "Oahe Dam, Missouri River, Pierre, South Dakota, Critical Infrastructure Security Program, Dam Failure Analyses, H&H Methodology Report and Consequences Summary," dated February 2010;
5. "Garrison Dam, Missouri River, North Dakota, Critical Infrastructure Security Program, Dam Failure Analyses, H&H Methodology Report and Consequences Summary," dated February 2010; and
6. "Fort Peck Dam, Missouri River, Montana, Critical Infrastructure Security Program, Dam Failure Analyses, H&H Methodology Report and Consequences Summary," dated February 2010.

One of my staff has spoken with Mr. Roger Kay of your staff, as well as Laila Barre, Portland District of the USACE. Ms. Berre indicated that a formal request to your attention, with any necessary verification by your security office, should be sufficient to share information between our two offices.

The NRC has policies in place to handle sensitive, unclassified information that is considered *Official Use Only*. We understand that the information that is sufficiently marked, will not be released by the NRC. Should the NRC receive a request to release these documents, NRC's policies regarding Freedom of Information Act requests require that we refer such documents to the originator for release determination. In addition, only those individuals with a need to know will have access to the information.

We appreciate your assistance in enabling our office to continue to refine our accident consequence analysis using the latest flow routing and dam break analysis by your office. If there are any questions, please contact Mr. David Loveless of my staff at 817-860-8161.

Sincerely,



Anton Vegel, Director
Division of Reactor Safety