



NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE

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August 2, 2011

Mr. David B. Matthews  
Director, Division of New Reactor Licensing  
Office of New Reactors  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

**Subject:** Ex-Vessel Severe Accident Design Feature Change Process

**Project Number: 689**

Dear Mr. Matthews:

Attached for NRC review and consideration is draft industry guidance for determining whether a license amendment is required to depart from Tier 2 information that affects resolution of ex-vessel severe accident (EVSA) design features. This draft guidance is based on discussions that occurred during an NRC public meeting on December 2, 2010, and on the Staff Requirements Memorandum issued in response to SECY-10-0121, *Modifying the Risk-Informed Regulatory Guidance for New Reactors*.

We are providing the attached draft guidance in advance of a public meeting on August 9, 2011 to facilitate constructive dialog during the meeting. We think it would be beneficial to tabletop some examples through the EVSA design feature change process to identify modifications that could be made to further improve the guidance. Our draft guidance includes some examples that could be used as starting points for discussion during the August 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. We welcome additional examples you may have that could be used to more thoroughly test the guidance and, if appropriate, be added to the guidance to emphasize key points.

We understand that within approximately 30 days NRC will provide comments on the attachment based on the August 9<sup>th</sup> tabletop and its detailed review of the draft guidance. We will address those comments and submit the revised version of Appendix C, including EVSA guidance, to you for endorsement by the end of October 2011.

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We look forward to continued discussion on this subject. Please contact me or Kimberly Keithline (202-739-8121, kak@nei.org) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "RJ Bell".

Russell J. Bell

Attachment

c: Mr. William F. Burton, NRO/DNRL/DDIP/NR, NRC  
Mr. Earl R. Libby, NRO/DNRL/DDIP/NR, NRC  
Mr. Jerry N. Wilson, NRO/DNRL/DDIP/NR, NRC  
Mr. Donald A. Dube, NRO/DSRA, NRC  
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