

December 15, 2011

MEMORANDUM TO: Benjamin Beasley, Chief
Operating Experience and Generic Issues Branch
Division of Risk Analysis
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

FROM: Jose G. Ibarra */RA/*
Senior Reactor Systems Engineer
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SUBJECT: IDENTIFICATION OF A PROPOSED GENERIC ISSUE ON THE
EFFECTS OF UPSTREAM DAM FAILURES ON FUEL
FACILITIES

A Generic Issue has been proposed (ML101900305) on external flooding at nuclear power plants due to failure of upstream dams. The issue was proposed, in part, because estimates of the likelihood of dam failure may be higher than previously estimated. The proposed issue was accepted for review by the Generic Issues Program and has become Pre-GI-009. The issue has undergone a screening analysis (ML112430114) and is being recommended as a Generic Issue.

The screening analysis on effects of upstream dam failure has identified the possibility of adverse consequences at nuclear power plants. Since there are fuel cycle facilities located on rivers downstream from dams, there is a possibility of adverse consequences of upstream dam failure at fuel cycle facilities. This possibility of adverse consequences should be investigated. The effect of upstream dam failure on fuel cycle facilities is proposed as a Generic Issue because the Generic Issues Program provides a well-defined process for considering the potential issue.

CONTACT: Jose Ibarra, RES/DRA
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