February 17, 2012

MEMORANDUM TO: R. W. Borchardt
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Eric J. Leeds, Director ***/RA/***
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: NOMINATION OF KENNETH KARWOSKI AS THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION'S DAM SAFETY OFFICER

Pursuant to the recent reassignment of Branch Chiefs within the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR), Kenneth Karwoski is nominated to succeed George Wilson as the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Dam Safety Officer (DSO). The DSO is responsible for ensuring that the NRC, as a matter of policy and actual practice, makes every responsible and prudent effort to assure the safety of dams that are subject to NRC regulations. In 2006, the responsibility of the USNRC Dam Safety Program was transferred from the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS) to the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR). The Director of NRR then became the recommending official for the DSO position. SECY 91-193, identifies the requirements to serve as the DSO:

1. The DSO is appointed by the Executive Director for Operations (EDO) at the recommendation of the Director, NRR, and keeps him informed on routine matters of dam safety.

2. The DSO reports to the EDO periodically on program status and has direct access to the EDO on dam safety matters to the extent necessary to execute the responsibilities of the DSO.

Mr. Karwoski has represented the agency both domestically and internationally on complex technical issues, works well with others, and has led complex reviews. Given his background and broad understanding of nuclear safety issues, he is qualified to represent the agency as the DSO. Upon confirmation of Kenneth Karwoski's appointment, the Federal Energy Management Agency, which oversees the interagency dam safety programs, will be notified.

cc: M. Johnson
B. Sheron
J. Wiggins
C. Haney

APPROVED: ***/RA by Martin J Virgilio for/*** DATE: 2/23/12
R. W. Borchardt,
Executive Director for Operations

CONTACT: Kenneth J. Karwoski, NRR/DE
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