

May 23, 2012

Dr. J. Sam Armijo, Chairman
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS
LETTER, DATED APRIL 25, 2012, ON THE SPENT FUEL POOL SCOPING
STUDY

Dear Dr. Armijo:

I am responding to your letter of April 25, 2012, in which you provided the comments of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) on the staff's Spent Fuel Pool Scoping Study that was presented to the ACRS on April 12–14, 2012.

The staff agrees with ACRS' summary of the limitations of the study. The study results and the limitations will be considered with other factors when the staff evaluates the Fukushima Lessons Learned Tier 3 issue of whether spent fuel should be transferred to dry cask storage earlier than currently planned by the nuclear power plant licensees. As summarized in your letter, such factors include, but are not limited to, the risks of additional fuel handling when loading and transferring the spent fuel to the casks. The staff will also consider the relevant operating experience related to the integrity of spent fuel pools subjected to severe seismic events.

We appreciate the comments on the staff's plans for the study and look forward to further interactions on this topic.

Sincerely,

/RA Michael F. Weber for/

R. W. Borchardt
Executive Director
for Operations

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

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Letter to Dr. J. Sam Armijo from the Chairman dated May 23, 2012

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