



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION I**
2100 RENAISSANCE BOULEVARD, SUITE 100
KING OF PRUSSIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19406-2713

September 12, 2012

Mr. Kevin Walsh
Site Vice President, North Region
Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant
NextEra Energy Seabrook, LLC
P.O. Box 300
Seabrook, NH 03874

**SUBJECT: DEVIATION FROM THE REACTOR OVERSIGHT PROCESS ACTION MATRIX
FOR SEABROOK STATION, UNIT NO. 1**

Dear Mr. Walsh:

On September 5, 2012, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) Executive Director for Operations approved a deviation from the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Action Matrix for Seabrook Station, as described in the enclosed memorandum. The NRC will deviate from the Action Matrix to conduct the additional inspections that we have determined are necessary to fully evaluate the concrete degradation that you identified as occurring in safety-related concrete structures at Seabrook due to alkali-silica reaction (ASR).

On May 16, 2012, the NRC issued a Confirmatory Action Letter (CAL) to confirm commitments made by NextEra during an April 23, 2012, management meeting at Seabrook. On July 9, 2012, the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation and Region I issued an ASR Working Group Charter. The working group was established to provide coordination and oversight of onsite inspections, in-office technical reviews, development of guidance, and other evaluations and assessment activities associated with the ASR issue.

Although resources for CAL follow-up are provided for in the ROP, the nature of the ASR issue warrants additional inspection and assessment activities beyond those allocated by the ROP. The approved ROP deviation provides additional inspection and assessment resources as stated in the enclosed memorandum.

The NRC anticipates closure of the deviation memo when the CAL commitments have been satisfactorily completed and an acceptable basis has been established to assure that the continued operability of concrete structures will be maintained. The deviation began on September 5, 2012 and the status of the deviation memorandum will be reviewed every six months.

In accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosure, and your response (if any) will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web Site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Please contact Arthur Burritt, Chief, Projects Branch 3, at (610) 337-5069 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the enclosed ROP Deviation Memorandum.

Sincerely,

/RAI

Darrell J. Roberts, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No. 50-443
License No. NPF-86

Enclosure:

Reactor Oversight Process Deviation Memorandum for Seabrook Nuclear Power Station
(ADAMS Accession No: ML12242A370)
Confirmatory Action Letter (ADAMS Accession No: ML12125A172)
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation and Region I Alkali-Silica Reaction Working Group Charter
(ADAMS Accession No: ML121250588)

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