

November 6, 2012

Mr. Russell J. Bell
Director, New Plant Licensing
Nuclear Generation Division
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 I Street, NW, Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20006-3708

SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENT OF AN EMERGENCY PLANNING AND PREPAREDNESS
FRAMEWORK FOR SMALL MODULAR REACTORS

Dear Mr. Bell:

I am writing in response to your letter of September 4, 2012, stating the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) is developing an industry position paper on the emergency preparedness (EP) framework for small modular reactors (SMRs) for U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff review and consideration.

As noted in your letter, the industry position paper is in part a response to SECY-11-0152 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML112570439) dated October 28, 2011. In that SECY, the NRC staff informed the Commission of the staff's intent to develop a technology-neutral, dose-based consequence-oriented EP framework for SMR sites that takes into account the various designs, modularity and collocation as well as the size of the emergency planning zone (EPZ). The paper provided an overview of likely policy issues being considered, which included examples of scalable EPZ boundaries or categories. The NRC staff anticipates that the industry will utilize mature SMR designs to develop and implement the detailed calculations methods supporting the SMR EP framework for review and approval by the staff.

The NRC staff looks forward to timely communications and coordination with NEI, SMR stakeholders and the public to discuss the industry-proposed approach for establishing the technical basis and the path forward in the development of the SMR EP framework.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Earl R. Libby at (301) 415-0522.

Project No.: 689

Sincerely,

/RA/

Michael E. Mayfield, Director
Division of Advance Reactors and Rulemaking
Office of New Reactors

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Director, New Plant Licensing
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Distribution: See next page

ADAMS Accession No.: ML12262A368

***via email**

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