

November 19, 2012

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

SUBJECT: DRAFT SAFETY EVALUATION OF WCAP-16793-NP, REVISION 2,  
"EVALUATION OF LONG-TERM COOLING CONSIDERING PARTICULATE,  
FIBROUS AND CHEMICAL DEBRIS IN THE RECIRCULATING FLUID"

Dear Dr. Armijo:

Thank you for your October 18, 2012, letter supporting the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's conclusions regarding the subject Topical Report (TR). You concluded that the TR could be used to evaluate the effects of in-vessel debris on long-term core cooling, and that 15 grams per assembly is an acceptable fiber limit provided the other conditions and limitations in the draft Safety Evaluation Report (SER) are met. You recommended that the draft SER be finalized and issued to support resolution of Generic Letter 2004-02, "Potential Impact of Debris Blockage on Emergency Recirculation during Design Basis Accidents at Pressurized-Water Reactors." The staff is proceeding with the Advisory Committee for Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) recommendation by finalizing the SER, including the conditions and limitations that were presented to the ACRS in the meeting on October 4-5, 2012.

The NRC staff thanks the ACRS for its efforts. The staff especially recognizes the important recommendations provided by the ACRS Thermal Hydraulic Subcommittee during the March 2008 staff presentation on Revision 0 of the subject TR. Those comments have resulted in a more thorough industry test program and a better understanding of in-vessel effects. Approval of this TR is an important step in resolving 2004-02.

Sincerely,

***/RA by Michael R. Johnson for/***

R. W. Borchardt  
Executive Director  
for Operations

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

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