

March 25, 2013

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

SUBJECT: CONSTRUCTION REACTOR OVERSIGHT PROCESS (cROP) PROGRAM AND
THE cROP PILOT PROGRAM RESULTS

Dear Dr. Armijo:

Thank you for your letter dated February 26, 2013, which contained the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS or the Committee) safety review of the construction reactor oversight process (cROP) pilot program results. ACRS undertook this review to fulfill the requirements in the Staff Requirement Memorandum (SRM) to SECY-10-0140, "Options for Revising the Construction Reactor Oversight Process Assessment Program," dated March 21, 2011, (Agencywide Documents Access and Management Systems Accession No. ML110800557). The Commission directed the staff to develop and pilot a construction assessment program that would include a regulatory framework, the use of a construction significance determination process (SDP), and the use of a construction action matrix. At the completion of these directives, the Commission required the staff to present the pilot results for ACRS review.

In its letter, the ACRS concluded that the new cROP Pilot Program is a meaningful first step in assessing construction performance under Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 50, "Domestic Licensing of Production and Utilization Facilities," and 10 CFR Part 52, "Licenses, Certifications, and Approvals for Nuclear Power Plants." The ACRS also concluded that the staff is addressing the objectives outlined in the SRM-SECY-10-0140. The ACRS letter did not contain any recommendations for staff action. The ACRS agreed with the staff's plan to continue to develop and improve the use of cross-cutting aspects and to continue to improve the construction SDP. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff will include details on these efforts in the yearly cROP self-assessment SECY papers.

J. Armijo

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The staff appreciates the Committee's efforts and suggestions. The NRC staff thanks the ACRS for its time and its valuable input, and looks forward to working with the Committee in the future.

Sincerely,

/RA Mike Johnson for/

R. W. Borchardt
Executive Director
for Operations

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

J. Armijo

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