



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

August 6, 2013

Mr. Kevin Walsh, Site Vice President
c/o Michael Ossing
Seabrook Station
NextEra Energy Seabrook, LLC
P.O. Box 300
Seabrook, NH 03874

SUBJECT: SEABROOK STATION, UNIT NO. 1 – ACCEPTANCE LETTER REGARDING
LICENSE AMENDMENT REQUEST 13-04 AND EXEMPTION REQUEST TO
ALLOW OPTIMIZED ZIRLO™ AS FUEL ROD CLADDING (TAC NO. MF2411)

Dear Mr. Walsh:

By letter dated June 25, 2013 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML13183A056), NextEra Energy Seabrook, LLC (NextEra) submitted license amendment request 13-04 for Seabrook Station, Unit No. 1 (Seabrook). The proposed change is to the Seabrook Technical Specification (TS). Specifically, the proposed amendment would allow the use of Optimized ZIRLO™ as fuel rod cladding. To support this change to allow the use of Optimized ZIRLO™ in accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), Section 12, NextEra is also requesting an exemption from certain requirements of 10 CFR 50.46, "Acceptance Criteria for Emergency Core Cooling Systems for Light Water Nuclear Power Reactors," and Appendix K to 10 CFR 50, "ECCS Evaluation Models." This exemption request relates solely to the specific types of cladding material specified in these regulations for use in light water reactors. As written, the regulations presume use of either Zircaloy or ZIRLO® fuel rod cladding. The exemption is required since Optimized ZIRLO™ has a slightly different composition than Zircaloy or standard ZIRLO®.

The purpose of this letter is to provide the results of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's acceptance review of this amendment and exemption request. The acceptance review was performed to determine if there is sufficient technical information in scope and depth to allow the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review. The acceptance review is also intended to identify whether the application has any readily apparent information insufficiencies in its characterization of the regulatory requirements or the licensing basis of the plant.

Consistent with 10 CFR, Section 50.90, an amendment to the license (including the TSs) must fully describe the changes requested, and following as far as applicable, the form prescribed for original applications. Section 50.34 of 10 CFR addresses the content of technical information required. This section stipulates that the submittal address the design and operating characteristics, unusual or novel design features, and principal safety considerations.

The NRC staff has reviewed your application and concluded that it does provide technical information in sufficient detail to enable the staff to proceed with its detailed technical review and make an independent assessment regarding the acceptability of the proposed amendment in terms of regulatory requirements and the protection of public health and safety and the

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environment. If additional information is needed for the NRC staff to complete its technical review, you will be advised by separate correspondence.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-3100.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John G. Lamb". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being the most prominent.

John G. Lamb, Senior Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch I-2
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-443

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- 2 -

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Sincerely,

/ra/

John G. Lamb, Senior Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch I-2
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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