

July 30, 2013

Mr. Robert E. Link, Manager
Environmental, Health, Safety
and Licensing
AREVA NP, Inc.
2101 Horn Rapids Road
Richland, WA 99352-0130

SUBJECT: ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF AREVA'S REQUEST TO CLOSE UNRESOLVED ITEM
70-1257/2012-006-01, REGARDING NATURAL PHENOMENA ACCIDENT
SEQUENCES

Dear Mr. Link:

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has received your letter REL: 13:001, dated January 9, 2013, that addresses AREVA's request to close Unresolved Item (URI) 70-1257/2012-006-01. The URI was issued to further evaluate whether AREVA complies with the performance requirements of 70.61 and 70.62(c) requirements regarding natural phenomena events accident sequences. The NRC also issued similar URIs to other fuel cycle facilities for further verification of compliance regarding natural phenomena events. The NRC staff considers these URIs as a generic issue and is developing a draft Generic Letter that will address natural phenomena hazard events and the design/licensing basis of fuel cycle facilities.

The NRC staff appreciates your discussion in the referenced letter and will take all the discussion points into consideration when developing the Generic Letter. As part of the generic communication development process, you and other stakeholders will have the opportunity to comment on and provide input to the draft NRC generic letter, during the public comment period. Public meetings will also be arranged to give interested members of the public additional opportunity to comment.

In accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records 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).

Sincerely,

/RA/

Robert Johnson, Branch Chief
Fuel Manufacturing Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
and Safeguards
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No. 70-1257
License No. SNM-1227

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/RA/

Robert Johnson, Branch Chief
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