

September 3, 2013

Dr. John E. Kelly
Chairman, Generation IV International Forum
and Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Nuclear Reactor Technologies NE-7
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585

SUBJECT: GENERATION IV INTERNATIONAL FORUM SAFETY DESIGN CRITERIA FOR
SODIUM FAST REACTORS

Dear Dr. Kelly:

I am responding to your letter dated June 28, 2013, in which you provided information on the recent issuance of Generation IV International Forum (GIF) report, "Safety Design Criteria for Generation-IV Sodium Fast Reactor System," dated May 1, 2013, and invited the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff to review the report. You noted that such review would parallel the invited reviews by international bodies, such as the Nuclear Energy Agency and the International Atomic Energy Agency, as well as reviews by national regulators from GIF member states.

The NRC appreciates your initiative to engage on advanced reactor safety criteria. The Generation IV International Forum report shares certain topics with the NRC's "Report to Congress: Advanced Reactor Licensing," issued August 2012, which addressed the overall strategy for the licensing of advanced reactors over the next 20-plus years and identified the NRC's plans to significantly engage the international nuclear community.

We accept your invitation for NRC staff review of the GIF report. We believe this effort will provide an opportunity for enhanced staff awareness of GIF activities and will be mutually beneficial to both the NRC staff and GIF. The review will derive primarily from staff's experience

and expertise with light-water reactor technology and NRC regulations and guidance. The staff will review the safety design criteria by comparison with corresponding NRC requirements (e.g., “General Design Criteria for Nuclear Power Plants,” Appendix A to 10 CFR Part 50) and guidance (e.g., NUREG–0800, “Standard Review Plan for the Review of Safety Analysis Reports for Nuclear Power Plants: LWR Edition”), identify relevant differences from the staff’s perspective, and, as appropriate, provide comments for GIF’s consideration. Although the review will not be an exhaustive comparison, we hope to provide insights that will be useful in advancing the safety design criteria. Mr. Michael Mayfield, Director, Division of Advanced Reactors and Rulemaking, is coordinating the staff’s review. We plan to provide you with the results of our review in December 2013.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Glenn M. Tracy, Director
Office of New Reactors

J. Kelly

-2-

and expertise with light-water reactor technology and NRC regulations and guidance. The staff will review the safety design criteria by comparison with corresponding NRC requirements (e.g., "General Design Criteria for Nuclear Power Plants," Appendix A to 10 CFR Part 50) and guidance (e.g., NUREG-0800, "Standard Review Plan for the Review of Safety Analysis Reports for Nuclear Power Plants: LWR Edition"), identify relevant differences from the staff's perspective, and, as appropriate, provide comments for GIF's consideration. Although the review will not be an exhaustive comparison, we hope to provide insights that will be useful in advancing the safety design criteria. Mr. Michael Mayfield, Director, Division of Advanced Reactors and Rulemaking, is coordinating the staff's review. We plan to provide you with the results of our review in December 2013.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Glenn M. Tracy, Director
Office of New Reactors

DISTRIBUTION:

PUBLIC
DARR R/F
RidsNroOd Resource
RidsNroDarrOd
RidsResOd
RidsOgcOd
T.Kevern
A.Bradford

ADAMS Accession No.:ML13225A488

***via E-mail**

NRO-002

OFFICE	PM:NRO/DARR/SMRLB2	Tech Editor*	BC:NRO/DARR/SMRLB2	D:NRO/DARR
NAME	TKevern	CHsu	ABradford	MMayfield
DATE	8/14/2013	8/26/2013	8/16 /2013	8/19/2013
OFFICE	D:NRO			
NAME	GTracy			
DATE	9/03/2013			

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY