



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS
WASHINGTON, DC 20555 - 0001**

October 31, 2013

The Honorable Allison M. Macfarlane
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

SUBJECT: SUMMARY REPORT - 608th MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS, OCTOBER 2-5, 2013

Dear Chairman Macfarlane:

During its 608th meeting, October 2-5, 2013, the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) discussed several matters and completed the following letters and memoranda:

LETTERS

Letters to Mark A. Satorius, Executive Director for Operations, NRC, from J. Sam Armijo, Chairman, ACRS:

- Regulatory Guide 1.79, "Preoperational Testing of Emergency Core Cooling Systems for Pressurized-Water Reactors," Revision 2, and Regulatory Guide 1.79.1, "Initial Test Program of Emergency Core Cooling Systems for New Boiling-Water Reactors," Revision 0, dated October 8, 2013
- Interim Staff Guidance JLD-ISG-2013-02, "Compliance with Order EA-13-109, Order Modifying Licenses with Regard to Reliable Hardened Containment Vents Capable of Operation Under Severe Accident Conditions," dated October 18, 2013

MEMORANDA

Memoranda to Mark A. Satorius, Executive Director for Operations, NRC, from Edwin M. Hackett, Executive Director, ACRS:

- WCAP-17577, dated October 7, 2013
- Draft Revision to Standard Review Plan Section, dated October 7, 2013
- Draft Final Regulatory Guide 1.73, dated October 7, 2013

HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ISSUES

1. Expedited Transfer of Spent Fuel to Dry Cask Storage

The Committee met with representatives of the NRC staff to discuss draft Commission memorandum on the evaluation and preliminary recommendation for the Japan lessons learned Tier 3 item on expedited transfer of spent fuel to dry cask storage. The staff discussed the expedited fuel transfer analysis process, key inputs and assumptions, sensitivity analyses, and results for U.S. spent fuel pools except for those in Western states. The staff's recommendation is to not pursue expedited transfer of spent fuel to dry cask storage and close the Tier 3 Japan lessons learned activity. Remarks were made by a staff member in the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) on expedited fuel movement. Members of the public made comments on expedited fuel movement and the spent fuel pool study.

Committee Action

The Committee will continue its discussion of the staff's evaluation and recommendations concerning expedited transfer of spent fuel to dry cask storage during its December 4-7, 2013 meeting.

2. Development of Guidance in Support of Order EA-13-109 on Reliable Hardened Containment Vents

The Committee met with representatives of the NRC staff and industry to discuss the draft Interim Staff Guidance JLD-ISG-2013-02, dated September 2013, "Compliance with Order EA-13-109, Order Modifying Licenses with Regard to Reliable Hardened Containment Vents Capable of Operation Under Severe Accident Conditions." During the discussion, the industry representative presented the development of its guidance document, NEI 13-02, "Industry Guidance for Compliance with Order EA-13-109," dated August 2013. The staff presented JLD-ISG-2013-02, in which the staff endorsed the industry guidance with clarifications and exceptions. Key topics included instrument qualification, accident management, design values, anticipatory venting, containment accident pressure, and options for providing additional protection during severe accident conditions. In particular, the industry proposed a design temperature of 545°F for the drywell vent. The staff stated that this value is reasonable for Phase 1 decisions concerning the common wetwell and drywell vent portions. However, postulated severe accident conditions could exceed the proposed design conditions as depicted in NEI 13-02 and supported by previous severe accident analysis.

Committee Action

The Committee issued a letter to the EDO on this matter dated October 18, 2013, recommending that JLD-ISG-2013-02 be issued. The Committee also made the following recommendations: 1) the staff should better define accident scenarios during which drywell venting would be necessary or preferred over wetwell venting, 2) additional combustible gas control measures should be given higher priority, and 3) venting procedures must be developed that do not compromise long term core cooling which depends on containment accident pressure. The ACRS also commented that the margin for protecting the drywell head seal gasket against leakage needs to be confirmed by analysis.

3. WCAP-17577

The Committee considered the Safety Evaluation of draft Revision 2 of WCAP-17577, "Topical Report on ASME Section III Piping and Component Fatigue Analysis Utilizing the WESTEMS," and decided not to review it. The Committee has no objection to the staff's proposal to issue the Safety Evaluation.

4. Draft Revisions to Standard Review Plan Section

The Committee considered the draft revisions to Standard Review Plan Section 9.1.4, "Light Load Handling System and Operations," and decided not to review it.

5. Draft Final Regulatory Guide 1.173

The Committee considered the draft final Revision 1 of Regulatory Guide 1.73, "Qualification Tests for Safety-Related Actuators in Nuclear Power Plants," and decided not to review it. The Committee has no objection to the staff's proposal to issue this Guide.

RECONCILIATION OF ACRS COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Committee considered the EDO's response of August 29, 2013, to comments and recommendations included in the July 22, 2013 ACRS letter on Revisions to Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Requirements (10 CFR Part 61). The Committee decided that it was not satisfied with the EDO's response, but chooses not to respond.

The ACRS Radiation Protection and Nuclear Materials Subcommittee has two future meetings scheduled to discuss the proposed revisions with the U.S. Department of Energy and with other stakeholders, and expects to write another letter report to the Commission on this matter.

SCHEDULED TOPICS FOR THE 609th ACRS MEETING

The following topics are scheduled for the 609th ACRS meeting, to be held on November 7-8, 2013:

- Assessment of the Quality of Selected NRC Research Programs - FY 2013
- Draft Report on the Biennial ACRS Review of the NRC Safety Research Program
- Watts Bar Unit 2 Operating License
- NTTF Recommendation 1: Enhanced Regulatory Framework

Sincerely,

/RA/

J. Sam Armijo
Chairman

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J. Sam Armijo
Chairman

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