

June 19, 2014

Mr. John W. Stetkar, Chairman
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

SUBJECT: CHAPTER 6 OF THE SAFETY EVALUATION REPORT WITH OPEN ITEMS
FOR CERTIFICATION OF THE US-APWR DESIGN AND RELATED
LONG-TERM CORE COOLING ISSUES

Dear Mr. Stetkar:

I am responding to your letter dated May 20, 2014,¹ in which you provided additional information on Chapter 6, "Engineered Safety Features," of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's safety evaluation report with open items for certification of the United States - Advanced Pressurized Water Reactor (US-APWR) design. Your letter was a follow-up to your initial report dated December 24, 2013,² and the staff's response dated February 24, 2014.³ In your letter, you had recommendations regarding long-term core cooling, as well as other issues.

At this time, the staff is unable to address the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) concerns, including concerns regarding long-term core cooling, due to a request by the applicant to slow down the NRC's review of the US-APWR design certification (DC) application. In its letter dated November 5, 2013,⁴ the applicant, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. (MHI), informed the NRC staff that it must reduce resources and expenditures via this slowdown in order to focus resources on supporting Japanese utilities as they apply to restart MHI-designed reactors that were shut down after the Fukushima accident. Because the scope and complexity of restarting these reactors is substantial (MHI designed all 24 of Japan's pressurized-water reactors), MHI has stated that the slowdown period on the US-APWR design review is of indeterminate duration. However, MHI also stated that it remains committed to eventually obtaining an NRC DC for the US-APWR design and will continue to support a limited review during the slowdown period, focused on certain topics. Long-term core cooling is not one of the topics for NRC review that MHI plans to support during the slowdown period.

¹ This letter contains proprietary information and is not publicly available.

² This report can be found in the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) at Accession Number [ML13346A742](#).

³ ADAMS Package Accession No. [ML13365A056](#).

⁴ ADAMS Accession No. [ML13311A109](#).

J. Stetkar

- 2 -

The staff appreciates and values the ACRS perspectives on the US-APWR design and will consider them once MHI ends the planned slowdown. At that time, the staff plans to respond to the ACRS by addressing these comments either through an additional meeting with the committee or through normal planned engagements (such as with the submission to the ACRS of the safety evaluation report without open items).

The staff looks forward to engaging with the ACRS after resuming normal review.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Mark A. Satorius
Executive Director
for Operations

Docket No.: 52-021

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

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