

February 18, 2015

MEMORANDUM TO: Anthony J. Mendiola, Chief
Licensing Processes Branch
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Joseph J. Holonich, Senior Project Manager /RA/
Licensing Processes Branch
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF DECEMBER 10, 2014, MEETING ON THE
PROPOSED GENERIC LETTER, "MONITORING OF NEUTRON-
ABSORBING MATERIALS IN SPENT FUEL POOLS"

On December 10, 2014, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) held a Category 2 public meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss with the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and other public stakeholders clarifications to the acceptability of graded responses to the proposed Generic Letter (GL), "Monitoring Of Neutron-Absorbing Materials In Spent Fuel Pools." The meeting was a continuation of discussions held at the October 9, 2014, public meeting on the same topic. Information related to the meeting, including the list of attendees, can be found in the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) package ML14349A009.

The meeting began with the NRC staff stating that the meeting purpose was to provide the participants with the proposed approach to address Advisory Committee on Reactor Safety (ACRS) comments on the GL. Also, the NRC staff stated that once the GL was issued, plants could request plant-specific adjustments to their response to the GL, which would be considered by the NRC. Finally, the NRC noted that the ACRS review was the last major external review for the GL, and the staff anticipated issuing the GL in the spring.

After the opening remarks, the NRC staff made a presentation on the "Tiered Approach for Generic Letter 'Monitoring of Neutron-Absorbing Material In Spent Fuel Pools.'" The NRC's presentation provided a brief background, followed by a discussion about a categorization of plants based on credit for neutron absorbing material, and ended with a discussion delineating which items in the GL's Appendix A applied to particular materials. The presentation served as a catalyst for initiating discussions on the different topics. The presentation slides can be found in the above referenced ADAMS package.

During the presentation, it was discussed how plants that are in the process of removing credit for one material or another should reply to the GL. The NRC staff indicated that this was an area where plants could ask for plant-specific adjustments.

The NEI representatives asked how the staff would address the points raised in the submitted comments with regard to specific items in Appendix A. In responding, the NRC staff stated that they have gone through all the comments and made changes as appropriate. Also, the NRC staff stated that the GL presented to the ACRS included their changes to address the aforementioned comments.

When asked if response times to the GL would be extended the NRC staff stated that the response time to the GL had increased from 90 to 120 days. In addition, the NRC staff responded to a question about whether information already docketed could be part of the response submitted in response to the GL. The NRC staff said that licensees can reference docketed information as part of any submittal, and this would apply to the GL response.

During the time for stakeholder participation, a question was asked on backfit considerations for the GL. In response to the question if the backfit rule was followed, the NRC staff noted that the GL was not a new requirement, and thus, did not constitute a backfit. A question was asked about the debris problem with core cooling. The NRC staff noted that this was not related to the GL, but committed to get the member of the public the address for the NRC staff web page on debris. A final question was asked about how fuel burnup was addressed. In response, the NRC staff stated that it included fuel burnup as part of its assessment of spent-fuel pools.

One action item was determined at the close of the meeting.

- 1) The NRC staff will provide the member of the public the address for the web page on debris and core cooling.

The NEI representatives asked how the staff would address the points raised in the submitted comments with regard to specific items in Appendix A. In responding, the NRC staff stated that they have gone through all the comments and made changes as appropriate. Also, the NRC staff stated that the GL presented to the ACRS included their changes to address the aforementioned comments.

When asked if response times to the GL would be extended the NRC staff stated that the response time to the GL had increased from 90 to 120 days. In addition, the NRC staff responded to a question about whether information already docketed could be part of the response submitted in response to the GL. The NRC staff said that licensees can reference docketed information as part of any submittal, and this would apply to the GL response.

During the time for stakeholder participation, a question was asked on backfit considerations for the GL. In response to the question if the backfit rule was followed, the NRC staff noted that the GL was not a new requirement, and thus, did not constitute a backfit. A question was asked about the debris problem with core cooling. The NRC staff noted that this was not related to the GL, but committed to get the member of the public the address for the NRC staff web page on debris. A final question was asked about how fuel burnup was addressed. In response, the NRC staff stated that it included fuel burnup as part of its assessment of spent-fuel pools.

One action item was determined at the close of the meeting.

- 1) The NRC staff will provide the member of the public the address for the web page on debris and core cooling.

DISTRIBUTION:

PUBLIC	RidsNrrOd	RidsNrrDpr	RidsNrrLADHarrison
RidsResOd	RidsAcrsAcnwMailCenter	RidsOgcMailCenter	UShoop
SKrepel	RidsOpaMail	KWood	RidsNroOd
RidsNrrDe	RidsNrrDprPlpb	AMendiola	JHolonich
RidsNrrDss			

EXTERNAL DISTRIBUTION

Cummings, Kristopher <kwc@nei.org>

ADAMS Accession Nos.: ML14364A440; ML14322A860 (Notice); ML14349A009 (Pkg.) NRC-001

OFFICE	DPR/PLPB/PM	DPR/PLPB/LA	DSS/BC	DPR/PLPB/BC	DPR/PLPB/PM
NAME	JHolonich	DHarrison	CJackson	AMendiola	JHolonich
DATE	02/01/2015	01/15/2015	02/13/2015	02/18/2015	02/18/2015

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY