

January 15, 2015

Dr. John E. Kelly, Deputy Assistant Secretary
Nuclear Reactor Technologies
Office of Nuclear Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

SUBJECT: INITIATIVE REGARDING U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
LICENSING STRATEGY FOR ADVANCED REACTOR TECHNOLOGIES

Dear Dr. Kelly:

By letter dated December 8, 2014, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) transmitted the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) technical report "Guidance for Developing Principal Design Criteria for Advanced (Non-Light Water) Reactors" (JNLIEXT-14-31179) (Agency Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML14353A224). The INL report is the culmination of phase one of a two-phase initiative by the DOE and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to develop advanced reactor safety design criteria from which the principal design criteria could be derived for advanced reactor concepts. The DOE letter requests that the NRC commence phase two of the initiative, which involves review of the content of the report, and initiate the process to develop and issue regulatory guidance.

The NRC acknowledges receipt of the letter and report. The NRC staff has commenced its review and has scheduled a public meeting with the DOE on January 21, 2015, to discuss the contents of the report. Two additional technology-specific seminars have been scheduled with the DOE in February 2015. The NRC will follow its normal process for developing and issuing regulatory guidance and anticipates completion of such guidance by the end of 2016.

Please contact Mr. Michael Mayfield, Director, Division of Advanced Reactors and Rulemaking, with any questions. He can be reached by e-mail at Michael.Mayfield@nrc.gov, or by phone at 301-415-0561.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Glenn M. Tracy, Director
Office of New Reactors

Project No.: 0814

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The NRC acknowledges receipt of the letter and report. The NRC staff has commenced its review and has scheduled a public meeting with the DOE on January 21, 2015, to discuss the contents of the report. Two additional technology-specific seminars have been scheduled with the DOE in February 2015. The NRC will follow its normal process for developing and issuing regulatory guidance and anticipates completion of such guidance by the end of 2016.

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Sincerely,

/RA/

Glenn M. Tracy, Director
Office of New Reactors

Project No.: 0814

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ADAMS Accession No.: ML15014A446 **via e-mail*** **NRO-002**

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Letter to: John E. Kelly, From: Glenn M. Tracy, Dated: January 15, 2015

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