



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

October 23, 2015

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

**SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS
REPORT ON THE SAFETY ASPECTS OF THE LICENSE RENEWAL
APPLICATION FOR BYRON STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2, AND BRAIDWOOD
STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2**

Dear Mr. Stetkar:

During the 627th meeting of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (the Committee) held on September 9–12, 2015, the Committee completed its review of the combined license renewal application for the Byron and Braidwood stations. The Committee also reviewed the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's associated final safety evaluation report (SER) for this application.

In the Committee's final report, dated September 21, 2015, the Committee recommends the NRC renew the operating licenses for Byron Station, Units 1 and 2, and Braidwood Station, Units 1 and 2. The NRC staff appreciates the Committee's objective and in-depth review of the license renewal application and the staff's final SER. The NRC staff acknowledged the Committee's insights regarding the resolution of the following open items as documented in the final SER:

- Ensuring there is adequate aging management through nondestructive testing of reactor vessel head control rod drive mechanism nozzles at the locations of wear near the J-groove welds caused by the thermal sleeve centering tabs; and
- Ensuring appropriate leading candidates and representative materials are included in the evaluation for environmentally assisted fatigue cumulative usage factors for reactor coolant pressure boundary systems and components.

J. Stetkar

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The NRC staff recognizes the Committee's commitment to safety and appreciates its continued support of the license renewal process.

Sincerely,

/RA Michael R. Johnson Acting for/

Victor M. McCree
Executive Director
for Operations

cc: Chairman Burns
Commissioner Svinicki
Commissioner Ostendorff
Commissioner Baran
SECY

J. Stetkar

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Commissioner Svinicki
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SECY

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| DATE | 10/01/15 | 10/01/15 | 10/01/15 | 10/06/15 |
| OFFICE | BC:RPB1:DLR | D:DLR:NRR | D:NRR | EDO |
| NAME | YDiaz-Sanabria | CMiller | WDean (MEvans for) | VMcCree (MJohnson for) |
| DATE | 10/02/15 | 10/07/15 | 10/15/15 | 10/ 23 /15 |

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Letter to J. Stetkar from V. McCree dated October 23, 2015

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