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October 26, 2015

Michael R. Johnson
Deputy Executive Director for Reactor and Preparedness Programs
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Subject: Industry Initiative to Maintain Severe Accident Management Guidelines

Project Number: 689

Dear Mr. Johnson:

As you know, Severe Accident Management Guidelines (SAMGs) provide guidance to operators and designated support staff for use in the event that accident conditions progress beyond the mitigation capabilities described in Emergency Operating Procedures (EOPs). These guidelines employ strategies intended to arrest the progression of fuel damage, maintain the capability of the containment as long as possible, and to preclude or minimize radiological releases. The SAMGs were originally developed in response to NRC Generic Letter 88-20, Supplement 2, *Accident Management Strategies for Consideration in the Individual Plant Examination Process*, dated April 4, 1992.

The industry continues to believe that SAMGs provide a useful tool to plant operators in the unlikely event of a severe accident. To this end, NEI's Nuclear Strategic Issues Advisory Committee (NSIAC) recently approved an Industry Initiative on SAMGs. Specifically, each licensee will perform timely updates of their site-specific SAMGs based on revisions to Owners Group generic severe accident technical guidelines. Licensees will also ensure that SAMGs are considered within plant configuration management processes, integrated with other emergency response guideline sets and symptom-based EOPs and validated. The generic SAMG commitments approved by the NSIAC are presented in Attachment 1. To begin implementation of this Industry Initiative, each licensee will send a letter to the NRC docketing their site-specific commitments. This action is expected to be completed by December 31, 2015.

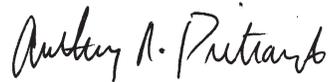
Finally, we understand that NRC staff will conduct periodic inspection of licensee Severe Accident Management Guidelines and performance deficiencies, if any, will be assessed using the Reactor

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Oversight Process. We also understand that these inspections will not extend to NRC review and approval of SAMG strategies, or the use of equipment described in the SAMGs.

If you have any questions regarding the SAMG Industry Initiative, please contact me or Mr. Joseph Pollock at jep@nei.org, 202-739-8114.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony R. Pietrangelo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Anthony R. Pietrangelo

Attachment

c: William Dean, NRR, NRC
Brian Holian, NSIR, NRC
NRC Document Control Desk

Attachment 1
SAMG Industry Initiative Commitments

COMMITMENT	TYPE (Check One)		SCHEDULED COMPLETION DATE
	ONE- TIME ACTION	CONTINUING COMPLIANCE	
Site SAMGs will be considered within plant configuration management processes in order to ensure that the SAMGs reflect changes to the facility over time.		X	October 31, 2016
Site SAMGs will be updated to revision 3 of the BWROG generic severe accident guidelines (published February, 2013). [For BWR sites only]	X		June 30, 2017
Site SAMGs will be updated to future revisions of the BWROG or PWROG generic severe accident technical guidelines, and the SAMGs will be integrated with other emergency response guideline sets and symptom-based Emergency Operating Procedures, and validated, using the guidance in NEI 14-01, <i>Emergency Response Procedures and Guidelines for Beyond Design Basis Events and Severe Accidents</i> . ¹		X	Within 2 refueling outages or 3 years of the publication date of the guidelines, whichever is greater

1 - Use of NEI 14-01 guidance for BWR sites begins with the update to revision 4 of the BWROG generic severe accident guidelines.