

March 17, 2016

Mr. Joseph E. Pollock, Executive Director
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 I Street NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006-3708

SUBJECT: ENDORSEMENT OF ELECTRIC POWER RESEARCH INSTITUTE REPORT
3002007148, "SEISMIC EVALUATION GUIDANCE: SPENT FUEL POOL
INTEGRITY EVALUATION"

Dear Mr. Mauer:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) I am responding to the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) letter¹ dated February 23, 2016, regarding the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) Report No. 3002007148 entitled, "Seismic Evaluation Guidance: Spent Fuel Pool Integrity Evaluation" (hereafter referred to as the Spent Fuel Pool (SFP) Evaluation Guidance Report)². The NEI letter was submitted to support licensee responses to Enclosure 1 of the March 12, 2012, information request³ that was issued pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), Section 50.54(f) (hereafter referred to as the 50.54(f) letter). The 50.54(f) letter was issued as part of the lessons learned from the accident at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear facility.

The NRC staff has interacted with stakeholders on the development of the SFP Evaluation Guidance Report to support completion of SFP evaluations for sites with re-evaluated seismic hazard exceedance in the 1-10 Hertz frequency range. Specifically, this report supplements the guidance in the Seismic Evaluation Guidance, Screening, Prioritization and Implementation Details (SPID)⁴, for plants where the ground motion response spectrum (GMRS) peak spectral acceleration is less than or equal to 0.8g (hereafter referred to as low GMRS sites). The SFP Evaluation Guidance Report is the product of significant interaction between the NRC, NEI, EPRI, and other industry stakeholders, at seven public meetings.⁵ These interactions and the insights gained from the meetings allowed for the development of this document in an effective and transparent manner. The meetings helped develop the expectations for how licensees would perform SFP evaluations.

The NRC staff has reviewed the SFP Evaluation Guidance Report and found the guidance to be an acceptable method for licensees to use when responding to NRC Requested Information

¹ The letter can be found at Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML16055A017.

² The SFP Evaluation Guidance Report is available in ADAMS under Accession No. ML16055A021.

³ The 50.54(f) letter is available in ADAMS under Accession No. ML12053A340.

⁴ The SPID guidance can be found at ADAMS Accession No. ML12333A170.

⁵ Public meetings were held on October 27, 2014, February 11, 2015, March 30, 2015, May 21, 2015, July 15, 2015, September 3, 2015, and October 21, 2015 (meeting summaries can be found at ADAMS Accession Nos. ML14307B726, ML15104A065, ML15111A031, ML15147A677, ML15208A039, ML15310A317 and ML15308A365, respectively).

Item (9) in Enclosure 1 of the 50.54(f) letter. Licensees with the appropriate GMRS level may use the SFP Guidance Report as an acceptable approach for responding to the information requested. Licensees are encouraged to adopt EPRI Report 3002007148 without deviation to expedite the review process. Licensee deviations from the guidance should be discussed in their SFP evaluation submittal.

The NRC staff notes that interactions are planned with NEI and industry stakeholders to develop a SFP evaluation submittal template. Near-term development of a submittal template is important for the successful implementation of the SFP Guidance report and will play a key role in reducing the need for requests for additional information during the staff review.

SFP evaluations using the guidance in EPRI Report 3002007148 are expected by December 31, 2016.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Frankie Vega at 301-415-1617 or by email at Frankie.Vega@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Jack R. Davis, Director
Japan Lessons-Learned Division
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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***via e-mail**

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