

February 23, 2016

Mr. Anthony R. Pietrangelo
Senior Vice President and
Chief Nuclear Officer
Nuclear Energy Institute
1201 F Street, NW Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20004

SUBJECT: REACTOR OVERSIGHT PROCESS CHANGES TO ADDRESS SEVERE
ACCIDENT MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Dear Mr. Pietrangelo:

The purpose of this letter is to outline the approach that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff intends to take to develop the guidance to implement Commission direction related to oversight of severe accident management guidelines (SAMGs). In an August 27, 2015, staff requirements memorandum (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML15239A767), the Commission directed the staff to “update the Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) to explicitly provide periodic oversight of industry’s implementation of the SAMGs.” By letter dated October 26, 2015 (ADAMS Accession No. ML15335A442), on behalf of the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) you informed the NRC of an industry initiative to maintain SAMGs. This letter stated that each licensee will send a letter to the NRC docketing its site-specific SAMG commitments by December 31, 2015. The NRC has received SAMG commitment letters from each licensee that are consistent with the commitments outlined in NEI’s October 26, 2015, letter. The licensees’ SAMG commitment letter dates and ADAMS Accession Nos. can be found in the enclosure to this letter.

The NRC staff envisions a phased approach for updating the ROP relative to SAMGs. This phased approach is based on: (1) near-term licensees’ commitments to make changes to the plants’ configuration management processes in order to ensure that the SAMGs reflect changes to the facilities over time; and (2) the longer term commitment to upgrade site-specific SAMGs to ensure that they are consistent with the latest revision to generic SAMG guidance documents.

Near-Term Activities

In their letters, licensees committed to changing the plants’ configuration management process to include SAMGs by the end of 2016. The NRC staff is currently changing ROP guidance documents to reflect that the NRC staff would inspect licensees’ configuration management processes to ensure that these processes consider changes to SAMGs. The NRC staff intends to engage NEI and other interested stakeholders as the ROP changes are developed in this area.

Long-Term Activities

Licensees have also committed to updating the site-specific SAMGs to be consistent with the latest Boiling Water Reactors Owners Group (BWROG) and Pressurized Water Reactors Owners Group (PWROG) guidance. Changes to the BWROG and PWROG generic guidance documents have been made, and are continuing to be made, based on Fukushima lessons learned. Because this is a longer-term activity, the NRC staff envisions that the ROP will be updated again by December 31, 2020, to allow for oversight of the site-specific SAMG incorporation of generic guidance revisions. Again, the NRC staff intends to engage NEI and other interested stakeholders as the ROP changes are developed in this area.

Regarding the generic guidelines, the NRC staff appreciates the opportunity to provide comments or questions to the appropriate owners group on the generic guidelines and intends to do this with the following purposes in mind:

- inform and develop the appropriate ROP updates and subsequent inspections consistent with the generic guidelines;
- develop familiarity with the guidelines to inform and train the NRC staff on other related regulatory actions (e.g., training NRC staff members who are involved with incident response activities); and
- provide feedback to the owners groups for their consideration.

If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Joseph Sebrosky of my staff, at (301) 415-1132, or via email to Joseph.Sebrosky@nrc.gov, or Aron Lewin of the Reactor Inspection Branch at (301) 415-2259, or via email to Aron.Lewin@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

William M. Dean, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
Severe Accident Management Guidelines
Commitment Letters by Site

Long-Term Activities

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Sincerely,

/RA/

William M. Dean, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:

Severe Accident Management Guidelines
Commitment Letters by Site

DISTRIBUTION:

PUBLIC	SBailey	MShams	ACampbell
JLD R/F	JBowen	MFranovich	JDavis
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RidsNrrLaSLent Resource	RidsNrrOd		

ADAMS Accession No.: ML16032A029

***-via email**

OFFICE	NRR/JLD/JHMB	NRR/JLD	NRO/DIRS/IRIB	NRR/DRA/ARCB*	NRR/JLD/JHMB
NAME	JSebrosky	SLent	JPeralta	UShoop	MShams
DATE	2/10/2016	2/1/2016	2/2/2016	2/2/2016	2/9/2016
OFFICE	NRR/DIRS	NRR/JLD	NRR/D		
NAME	SMorris	JDavis	WDean		
DATE	2/9/2016	2/16/2016	2/23/2016		

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Severe Accident Management Guidelines Commitment Letters by Site

Site	Letter Date	ADAMS Accession Number
Arkansas Nuclear One, Units 1 and 2	12/22/15	ML15356A782
Beaver Valley Power Station, Units 1 and 2	11/20/15	ML15324A381
Braidwood Station, Units 1 and 2	12/4/15	ML15338A125
Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, Units 1, 2, and 3	12/30/15	ML15365A398
Brunswick Steam Electric Plant, Units 1 and 2	12/21/15	ML15362A016
Byron Station, Units 1 and 2	12/4/15	ML15338A125
Callaway Plant, Unit 1	12/2/15	ML15336A390
Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant, Units 1 and 2	12/4/15	ML15338A125
Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2	12/21/15	ML15362A016
Clinton Power Station, Unit No. 1	12/4/15	ML15338A125
Columbia Generating Station	12/21/15	ML15357A454
Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant, Units 1 and 2	12/10/15	ML15357A050
Cooper Nuclear Station	12/9/15	ML15350A333
Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station, Unit 1	11/25/15	ML15329A209
Diablo Canyon Power Plant, Unit Nos. 1 and 2	12/28/15	ML15362A521
Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2	12/14/15	ML15351A409
Dresden Nuclear Power Station, Units 2 and 3	12/4/15	ML15338A125
Duane Arnold Energy Center	12/17/15	ML15356A209
Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2	12/23/15	ML15357A213
Fermi, Unit 2	12/2/15	ML15350A104
Fort Calhoun Station, Unit 1	12/29/15	ML15363A270
Grand Gulf Nuclear Station, Unit 1	1/20/16	ML16020A090
H. B. Robinson Steam Electric Plant, Unit No. 2	12/21/15	ML15362A016
Hope Creek Generating Station	12/29/15	ML15363A378
Indian Point Nuclear Generating, Unit Nos. 2, and 3	12/15/15	ML15356A099
James A. Fitzpatrick Nuclear Power Plant	12/15/15	ML15349B026
Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2	12/23/15	ML15357A213
LaSalle County Station, Units 1 and 2	12/4/15	ML15338A125
Limerick Generating Station, Units 1 and 2	12/4/15	ML15338A125
McGuire Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2	12/21/15	ML15362A016
Millstone Power Station, Units 2 and 3	12/29/15	ML16005A143
Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant	12/17/15	ML15351A453
Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2	12/4/15	ML15338A125
North Anna Power Station, Units 1 and 2	12/29/15	ML16005A143
Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3	12/21/15	ML15362A016
Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station, Unit 1	12/4/15	ML15338A125
Palisades Nuclear Plant	12/9/15	ML15343A365
Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, Units 1, 2, and 3	12/15/15	ML15349B042
Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station, Units 2 and 3	12/4/15	ML15338A125
Perry Nuclear Power Plant, Unit 1	11/20/15	ML15327A065
Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station	12/17/15	ML15358A007

Enclosure

Site	Letter Date	ADAMS Accession Number
Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2	12/17/15	ML15356A209
Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2	12/17/15	ML15351A453
Quad Cities Nuclear Power Station, Units 1 and 2	12/4/15	ML15338A125
Riverbend Station, Unit 1	12/15/15	ML16005A144
R. E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant	12/4/15	ML15338A125
St. Lucie Plant, Units 1 and 2	12/17/15	ML15356A209
Salem Nuclear Generating Station, Units 1 and 2	12/31/15	ML15365A303
Seabrook Station, Unit No. 1	12/17/15	ML15356A209
Sequoyah Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2	12/30/15	ML15365A398
Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant, Unit 1	12/21/15	ML15362A016
South Texas Project, Units 1 and 2	12/17/15	ML16005A142
Surry Power Station, Unit Nos. 1 and 2	12/29/15	ML16005A143
Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, Units 1 and 2	12/23/15	ML15362A520
Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 1	12/4/15	ML15338A125
Turkey Point Nuclear Generating, Units 3 and 4	12/17/15	ML15356A209
Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station, Unit 1	12/16/15	ML15356A052
Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2	12/23/15	ML15357A213
Waterford Steam Electric Station, Unit 3	12/16/15	ML15350A397
Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2	12/30/15	ML15365A398
Wolf Creek Generating Station	12/14/15	ML15357A036