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

September 27, 2016

MEMORANDUM TO: File

FROM: Steven D. Bloom, Chief ***/RA/***
Subsequent Renewal, Guidance
and Operations Branch
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: TECHNICAL LETTER REPORT "COMPENDIUM OF INSIGHTS FROM THREE AGING MANAGEMENT PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS AUDITS CONDUCTED TO INFORM SUBSEQUENT LICENSE RENEWAL GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS"

The technical letter report, "Compendium of Insights from Three AMP Effectiveness Audits Conducted to Inform Subsequent License Renewal Guidance Documents," dated June 15, 2016, (ADAMS Accession No. ML16167A076) from the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) was provided to the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation in response to a request for assistance in preparing for subsequent license renewal (SLR) (i.e., nuclear power plant operation from 60 to 80 years). The purpose of this study was to provide recommendations for consideration in drafting the guidance documents for SLR.

This report was prepared by the RES contractor, Argonne National Laboratory. Statements in the body of the report do not necessarily reflect the views of NRC staff. In particular, the staff does not agree that there has been an erosion of the original design margins due to age-related degradation and that the extent of the loss of design margins is unknown. One of the principles of license is that the plant specific licensing basis must be maintained during the renewal term in the same manner and to the same extent as during the original licensing term. Thus, the staff does not agree that there should be analyses of a verification of the original design bases analyses.

The recommendations in Appendix A and B of this technical letter report were developed by the contractor and the NRC staff on the three audits. These recommended changes to the license renewal guidance documents for first license renewal, along with recommendations from other sources, were entered into a database. The recommendations were then assigned to expert panels composed of the most appropriate NRC technical staffs in the various NRC offices.

Based on the consensus of each expert panel, some of the recommendations were accepted and some were not. The accepted recommendations formed the bases for drafting the guidance documents for SLR.

The NRC will be publishing in 2017 a report that will provide the technical bases for development of the subsequent license renewal guidance documents, the comments received from the public, and the NRC response to the public comments.

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