



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

September 8, 2016

MEMORANDUM TO: Cynthia D. Pederson, Regional Administrator
Region III

William M. Dean, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Michael F. Weber */RA/*
Director of Nuclear Regulatory Research

SUBJECT: CLOSURE OF GENERIC ISSUE PRE-GI-017, POTENTIAL
EFFECTS CONCERNING LOSS OF ULTIMATE HEAT SINK DUE
TO STORM-WAVE INTERACTIONS OR SEICHE WITH LOW
GREAT LAKES WATER LEVELS

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you of the results of the staff's evaluation and close out proposed Generic Issue (GI)-PRE-GI-017. I have reviewed the findings from the Generic Issue Review Panel (GIRP) report and concur with its recommendation. Therefore, PRE-GI-017 will be closed and exit the GI process.

The staff from Region III submitted this GI on March 18, 2015, to evaluate the possible loss of access to the ultimate heat sink from severe storm-wave interactions or seiche, combined with low water levels on the Great Lakes. A GIRP was formed to conduct a screening of the issue. In parallel, the Japan Lessons-Learned Division (JLD), within the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR), was conducting an evaluation of the effects of external hazards on U.S. plants. As part of its evaluation, the JLD performed a detailed evaluation of plants that could be affected by seiches. The JLD staff documented the results of its evaluation in a report to the NRC Commissioners as part of SECY-16-0074, "Assessment of Fukushima Tier 2 Recommendation Related to Evaluation of Natural Hazards Other Than Seismic and Flooding," dated June 2, 2016.

The GIRP reviewed the results of the JLD evaluation and agreed that, in the event a seiche with low lake water level condition occurred, the nuclear power plants on the Great Lakes would not be affected to the point of impacting the safety of the plant. As a result, the GIRP issued its findings on September 7, 2016 (ML16168A319), concluding that the issue did not meet two of the screening criteria described in Management Directive 6.4, "Generic Issues Program." Specifically, the issue did not meet criterion 1, which states "The issue affects public health and safety, the common defense and security, or the environment," and criterion 3, which states "The issue is not being addressed using other regulatory programs and processes, existing regulations, policies, or guidance." Therefore, the GIRP concluded no further regulatory actions were required and recommended the proposed issue exit the GI process.

CONTACT: Thomas H. Boyce, GI Program Manager
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The GIRP consisted of staff from various offices: NRR, the Office of New Reactors (NRO), Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR), and the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES):

Marissa Bailey, (Chair), NSIR
Joseph Kanney, RES
Henry Jones, NRO
Gerald Purciarello, NRR
Nicholas Hobbs, NRR
Stanley Gardocki, RES

I would like to express my gratitude for their participation and assessment. They completed their work in a high quality and expeditious manner. If there are questions regarding this issue, please feel free to contact the GI Program Manager, Thomas Boyce, or the GI Project Manager, Stanley Gardocki.

In addition, I commend the Region III staff for their diligence in raising the issue, preparing a high quality referral memo and working with the GIRP in evaluating the issue. I also commend the JLD/NRR and NRO for the close collaboration and technical contribution to this positive outcome.

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