



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

September 30, 2016

Rodney J. McCullum
Senior Director, Used Fuel
and Decommissioning Programs
Nuclear Energy Institute
1201 F Street, N.W., Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20004

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE LETTER REGARDING
PROPOSED REGULATORY ISSUE RESOLUTION PROTOCOL (RIRP) FOR
IMPROVING THE EFFICIENCY OF THE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR
DRY STORAGE OF SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL

Dear Mr. McCullum:

In response to your letter dated April 12, 2016 (Agencywide Document Access Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML16158A048), staff from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, Division of Spent Fuel Management (DSFM) completed its review of Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) proposed Regulatory Issue Resolution Protocol (RIRP) Issue Screening Form and Resolution Plan (ADAMS Accession No. ML16158A049, ML16158A050). NEI requested NRC provide feedback on the submitted RIRP screening form and resolution plan for used fuel storage and transportation. Enclosures 1 and 2 are the NRC proposed revisions to the RIRP screening form and resolution plan (RIRP Issue Number I-16-01) proposed in your April 12, 2016, letter.

The NRC recognizes there is a need to improve the efficiency of the licensing process for dry storage of spent nuclear fuel under 10 CFR Part 72. In the course of pursuing improved efficiency, NRC's DSFM has developed an implementation plan for building a graded framework to be used in its licensing and certification actions for dry storage of spent nuclear fuel.

The NEI letter was preceded by previous dialogues including last November's DSFM Regulatory Conference (DSFM REG CON). Subsequent to receiving this letter, public meetings were held on April 26, and August 8, 2016. The most recent meeting also served as a kick-off meeting for starting the RIRP process. The NRC and industry agreed at this meeting to focus this RIRP effort on improving efficiency of amendments for technical specifications of dry cask storage.

If you have questions, please contact Dr. Donald Chung at (301) 415-8738. If you are interested in discussing the RIRP schedule in a public teleconference or in-person meeting, please propose a date/time and Dr. Chung will coordinate the meeting. We look forward to continuing this constructive dialog.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Mark Lombard, Director
Division of Spent Fuel Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosures:

1. Used Fuel Storage and Transportation Issue Screening Form
2. Used Fuel Storage and Transportation Issue Resolution Plan

cc: Kristopher Cummings, NEI

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cc: Kristopher Cummings, NEI

ADAMS Pkg No.: ML16252A453 Ltr: ML16252A452 Encls 1&2: ML16256A091 ML16256A092

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