



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

October 11, 2016

MEMORANDUM TO: David Alley, Chief  
Component Performance, Nondestructive  
Examination, and Testing Branch  
Division of Engineering  
Office of Nuclear Reactor  
Regulation

FROM: Carol Nove, Acting Chief */RA/*  
Component Integrity Branch  
Division of Engineering  
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

SUBJECT: NONDESTRUCTIVE EXAMINATION (NDE) EXPERT PANEL  
REGARDING NDE PERFORMANCE ISSUES

In recent years, there have been several NDE-related events at nuclear power plants wherein ASME Code, Appendix VIII qualified ultrasonic techniques failed to perform in the field as would be expected. In response to these events, the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) organized a panel of internationally recognized NDE experts from within and outside the nuclear industry to discuss the potential effects these issues may be having on overall NDE reliability. Under contract to RES, staff at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory developed a White Paper to provide this expert panel with summaries of the NDE events as well as a discussion of shortcomings associated with the events. The expert panel met by teleconference approximately once per month for 8 months, discussed the issues and event summaries identified in the white paper, and developed their findings and conclusions.

Attached to this memorandum are several documents associated with the NDE Expert Panel, including:

- The Charter of the Nondestructive Examination (NDE) Expert Panel
- White Paper on Improving the Effectiveness and Reliability of Nondestructive Examination
- Findings and Conclusions of the NDE Expert Panel
- Independent Assessment from Outside the Industry – Comments from Panel Member, Ward Rummel, transmitted to NRC via email on December 13, 2013

They are being shared with you for informational purposes only. If additional information is required, please feel free to contact me at 301-415-2217 or [can2@nrc.gov](mailto:can2@nrc.gov).

Enclosures:  
As stated

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(301) 415-2217

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