

Below are comments on NFPA 805 Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) 14-0073, Acceptable Uses of Fuel Fired Equipment - ML16125A501, which provide basis for our non-acceptance of the FAQ. Industry stakeholders requested written comments during the August 9, 2016 public FAQ meeting.

- 1) The NRC staff does not agree with the concept that a fire caused by fuel fired emergency equipment used to respond to an initial fire is considered "independent." If a piece of emergency equipment were to catch fire when called upon, this would not be considered independent.

I respectfully disagree with the NRC position relative to independence. Using the NRC logic, if any plant installed equipment relied upon to respond to the initial fire were to catch fire for whatever reason then it would not be considered "independent". This would not be consistent with the industry guidance as discussed on Page 4 of FAQ-14-0073, "As noted in NUREG/CR-6850 on page 11-12, "[T]he analysis is limited to considering a single fire occurring at any given time. The analysis does not consider the possibility of multiple, concurrent fires." There are also several references in NFPA 805-2001 that discuss the "single fire" requirement such as Sections 4.2.1 and D.3.4.(a)(1). Additionally, Federal Register Notice 69 FR 33550, June 16, 2004, Voluntary Fire Protection Requirements for Light Water Reactors; Adoption of NFPA 805 as a Risk-Informed, Performance-Based Alternative, also refers to one success path being maintained free of fire damage from a "single fire". The FAQ was written with respect to the use of fuel fire equipment in general not specific to "emergency" equipment. As described in the FAQ, the use of fuel fired vehicles in crane bays or fuel fired man-lifts are examples of fuel fired equipment relied upon to support safe reliable nuclear plant operation and are examples that meet the NFPA 805 requirements but do not meet the more generic interpretation prohibiting "fuel fired equipment". It should be noted that licensees that received RAI's related to the use of fuel fired fans ended up utilizing a different safe shutdown strategy to respond to a fire rather than using fuel fire fans.

- 2) The NRC staff does not agree that the hazards of this equipment do not need to be addressed in the analyses. This lack of consideration is a significant issue that has prevented the NRC staff from accepting the use of this equipment. FAQ-14-0073 was not intended to imply that fuel fire equipment should be ignored. Rather, FAQ-14-0073 attempted to document that the use fuel fired equipment, other than fuel fired heaters, is not prohibited per NFPA 805-2001 and that there is guidance for control of combustibles and ignition sources that is included in the Table B-1 guidance that each licensee was required to address. The NRC accepted the licensee responses to the guidance for control of combustibles and ignition sources by the fact that Safety Evaluations were provided and no industry non-pilot RAI's were found related to the responses contained in Table B-1 of the license amendment request submittals.
- 3) The NRC staff does not agree that the use on fuel fired equipment was justified by the FAQ author. The FAQ fails to explain acceptable uses for fuel fired equipment (not heaters) and why those uses are consistent with the regulatory framework. The FAQ includes extensive discussion of RAIs, GDC 3, regulations and NFPA 805 standard language. This discussion is not consistent with the title of the FAQ, "Acceptable Uses of Fuel Fire Equipment." Additionally, the FAQ mentions review issues that have been settled, so this the information provided adds little value. FAQ-14-0073 was attempting to clarify that the use of fuel fired equipment, other than fuel fired heaters, is not prohibited per NFPA 805-2001 and is addressed or supported

by the RAI's or lack of RAI's related to licensee responses in Table B-1, GDC 3 or agreement that GDC 3 was satisfied when NFPA 805 requirements were met (FAQ 07-0032), and NFPA 805 standard language as well as the fact that the NRC has provided approved Safety Evaluations. The Fire Protection programs accepted by the NRC approved Safety Evaluations satisfy the NFPA 805 requirements and provide the controls to maintain an acceptable fire risk. FAQ-14-0073 was simply trying to document or clarify for all involved parties that use of fuel fired equipment is not prohibited, is supported by existing guidance, and there is no regulatory guidance specific to a more generic interpretation prohibiting "fuel fired equipment".

- 4) The FAQ's conclusion "K.X" adds little value to the regulatory process. First it restates the NFPA 805 standard language about the prohibition of fuel fired heaters, then it says that licensees should follow their combustible control program regarding other fuel fired equipment. Restating the standard has no value. Additionally, in the five pages of the FAQ there is very little to explain the correct use of other types of fuel fired equipment. Please note in NRC comments on the FAQ ML14336A078 – the NRC specifically asked about specific applications of fuel fired equipment (not heaters), and the revised FAQ did not satisfactorily address those comments.

FAQ-14-0073 does add value to the regulatory process by clarify that the use of fuel fired equipment, other than fuel fired heaters, is not prohibited per NFPA 805-2001, is supported by the existing guidance, and there is no regulatory guidance specific to a more generic interpretation prohibiting "fuel fired equipment". This clarification adds value by ensuring that all parties have a common understanding related to the use of fuel fired equipment related to Fire Protection Program implementation and routine inspections. It is not practical to use a more generic interpretation prohibiting "fuel fired equipment" as part of maintaining and safely operating a nuclear power plant.