



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

March 17, 2017

Dr. Dennis C. Bley, Chairman  
Advisory Committee on  
Reactor Safeguards  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS LETTER, "RESPONSE TO THE DECEMBER 15, 2016, STAFF LETTER REGARDING 'DRAFT FINAL RULE ON MITIGATION OF BEYOND-DESIGN-BASIS EVENTS AND ASSOCIATED REGULATORY GUIDANCE,'" DATED FEBRUARY 14, 2017

Dear Dr. Bley:

I am responding to your letter dated February 14, 2017 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML17045A206), in which the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) responded to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff's letter dated December 15, 2016 (ADAMS Accession No. ML16343A146). The staff's letter responded to the ACRS recommendations related to the draft final rule on mitigation of beyond-design-basis events (MBDBE) rule.

In your response, you noted that the ACRS disagrees with the staff's decision to not apply the equipment capability requirements for MBDBE external events to the strategies associated with loss of large areas of the plant due to explosions and fires. The staff's basis for not proposing such a requirement is documented in the staff's December letter. The staff notes that the Commission is currently deliberating on the draft final MBDBE rule and will have the benefit of ACRS's position in making a conclusion.

You also note in your letter that the ACRS would appreciate briefings on the staff's reviews of the seismic risk assessments for two or three sites at which the re-evaluated ground motion response exceeds the current safe shutdown earthquake by more than a factor of two in the 1 to 10 Hertz frequency range. The staff welcomes the opportunity to brief the ACRS on this subject. The staff anticipates receiving all seismic assessments by the end of calendar year 2019. The staff will coordinate briefings with the ACRS on the staff's review of the requested seismic risk assessments as they are completed. This approach is consistent with that for flooding hazard reevaluations, as described in a letter from the staff dated October 21, 2016 (ADAMS Accession No. ML162866A040).

D. Bley

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The staff appreciates the ACRS's views on this important rulemaking activity.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Victor M. McCree  
Executive Director  
for Operations

cc: Chairman Svinicki  
Commissioner Baran  
Commissioner Burns  
SECY

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**ADAMS Accession Nos.: Package ML17048A419; Letter ML17045A206;  
Response ML17058A229**

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