



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

August 21, 2017

MEMORANDUM TO: Brian E. Holian, Acting Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF GENERIC ISSUE REVIEW PANEL
RECOMMENDATION TO CONTINUE INTO THE ASSESSMENT
STAGE FOR PROPOSED GENERIC ISSUE PRE-GI-018,
"HIGH-ENERGY ARC FAULTS INVOLVING ALUMINUM"

As you may be aware, I have approved the recommendation of the Generic Issues Review Panel (GIRP) in the screening evaluation report for PRE-GI-018, "High Energy Arc Faults Involving Aluminum," (Enclosed and in Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML16349A027) for the issue to proceed into the Assessment Stage of the Generic Issue (GI) process.

I would like to express my appreciation to the members of the GIRP from the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation and the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research for their efforts to develop this comprehensive screening evaluation. I encourage the panel members to continue their participation on the GIRP panel during the Assessment Stage for consistency and continuity in assessing this issue.

The staff's plans for the Assessment Stage are outlined in Enclosure 3, "Actions Going Forward." We look forward to working with NRR to execute these plans, and anticipate that they can be completed within approximately two years, depending on the information that is developed. The schedule is compatible with continued collaboration with international partners and EPRI in conducting further testing and evaluations. In addition, the schedule is consistent with the findings of the GIRP, which concluded that the risk of a HEAF involving aluminum could potentially increase a plant's core damage frequency for some fire scenarios based upon a larger damage footprint or zone of influence, and that any increase in risk will be highly scenario dependent and highly influenced by room configuration. While the assessment is in progress, the staff determined there is no immediate safety concern based upon the requirement that plants have contingency plans in place for loss of large areas due to fire and explosions (ADAMS Accession No. ML16064A250).

If there are questions regarding this issue, please feel free to contact me or the GI Program staff below.

Enclosure:
As stated

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SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF GENERIC ISSUE REVIEW PANEL RECOMMENDATION TO CONTINUE INTO THE ASSESSMENT STAGE FOR PROPOSED GENERIC ISSUE PRE-GI-018, "HIGH ENERGY ARC FAULTS INVOLVING ALUMINUM"

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