

## NuScaleDCRaisPEm Resource

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**From:** Cranston, Gregory  
**Sent:** Monday, May 14, 2018 12:48 PM  
**To:** Chowdhury, Prosanta; Request for Additional Information  
**Cc:** Lee, Samuel; Dudek, Michael; Lavera, Ronald; NuScaleDCRaisPEm Resource; Cranston, Gregory  
**Subject:** Request for Additional Information No. 479 eRAI No. 9279 (12.3)  
**Attachments:** Request for Additional Information No. 479 (eRAI No. 9279).pdf

Attached please find NRC staff's request for additional information (RAI) concerning review of the NuScale Design Certification Application.

Please submit your technically correct and complete response by August 31, 2018 to the NRC Document Control Desk.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Thank you.

Prosanta Chowdhury, Project Manager  
Licensing Branch 1 (NuScale)  
Division of New Reactor Licensing  
Office of New Reactors  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
301-415-1647

**Hearing Identifier:** NuScale\_SMR\_DC\_RAI\_Public  
**Email Number:** 508

**Mail Envelope Properties** (CY4PR09MB12878329D0841223DCCDEB79909C0)

**Subject:** Request for Additional Information No. 479 eRAI No. 9279 (12.3)  
**Sent Date:** 5/14/2018 12:48:20 PM  
**Received Date:** 5/14/2018 12:48:24 PM  
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<b>Files</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Date &amp; Time</b>
MESSAGE	536	5/14/2018 12:48:24 PM
Request for Additional Information No. 479 (eRAI No. 9279).pdf		87124

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**Priority:** Standard  
**Return Notification:** No  
**Reply Requested:** No  
**Sensitivity:** Normal  
**Expiration Date:**  
**Recipients Received:**

## **Request for Additional Information No. 479 (eRAI No. 9279)**

Issue Date: 05/14/2018

Application Title: NuScale Standard Design Certification - 52-048

Operating Company: NuScale Power, LLC

Docket No. 52-048

Review Section: 12.03-12.04 - Radiation Protection Design Features

Application Section: 12.3, 12.4, 3.11

### **QUESTIONS**

12.03-57

#### **Regulatory Basis**

10 CFR 52.47(a)(5) requires applicants to identify the kinds and quantities of radioactive materials expected to be produced in the operation and the means for controlling and limiting radiation exposures within the limits set forth in 10 CFR Part 20.

Appendix A to Part 50—General Design Criteria for Nuclear Power Plants, Criterion 61—"Fuel storage and handling and radioactivity control," requires systems which may contain radioactivity to be designed with suitable shielding for radiation protection and with appropriate containment, confinement, and filtering systems.

10 CFR 20.1101(b) states that "the licensee shall use, to the extent practical, procedures and engineering controls based upon sound radiation protection principles to achieve occupational doses and doses to members of the public that are as low as is reasonably achievable (ALARA)." 10 CFR 20.1003 states that ALARA "means making every reasonable effort to maintain exposures to radiation as far below the dose limits in this part as is practical consistent with the purpose for which the licensed activity is undertaken, taking into account the state of technology, the economics of improvements in relation to state of technology, the economics of improvements in relation to benefits to the public health and safety, and other societal and socioeconomic considerations, and in relation to utilization of nuclear energy and licensed materials in the public interest."

The DSRS Acceptance Criteria section of NuScale DSRS Section 12.2, "Radiation Sources," states that the applications should contain the methods, models and assumptions used as the bases for all sources described in DCD Section 12.2. The DSRS Acceptance Criteria of DSRS Section 12.3-12.4, "Radiation Protection Design Features," states that the areas inside the plant structures, as well as in the general plant yard, should be subdivided into radiation zones, with maximum design dose rate zones and the criteria used in selecting maximum dose rates identified. The acceptance criteria of NuScale DSRS Section 12.3-12.4, further states that the applicant's methods for performing shielding design calculations are acceptable if assumptions regarding source terms, cross sections, shield and source geometries, and transport methods are realistic; and if specified radiation zones are consistent with the assumed source term and shielding specified in the design.

10 CFR 52.47(a)(22) requires applicants to provide information necessary to demonstrate how operating experience insights have been incorporated into the plant design.

## Background

Small changes to the shielding design parameters have cumulative non-linear effects on the attenuating capability of the shielding and the resultant estimated dose rates. Due to the interrelated, non-linear and cumulative effects of the assumptions for shielding material composition, density and thicknesses, the staff relies on the consistent application of the criteria stated in the DCA when making their reasonable assurance finding.

DCD Tier 2 Revision 0, Section 12.3.2, "Shielding," describes some of the design considerations, such as stating that material used for a significant portion of plant shielding is concrete. For most applications, concrete shielding is designed in accordance with ANSI/ANS 6.4-2006, "Nuclear Analysis and Design of Concrete Radiation Shielding for Nuclear Power Plants."

DCD Section 12.3.2.3, "Calculation Methods," states that source geometries, source term distributions and intensities are conservatively determined. Source terms associated with resin transfers and crud bursts are included. Shielding credit and material selections for modelled cells are conservatively applied. The material compositions for air, concrete, water, and stainless steel are taken from Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, "Compendium of Material Composition for Radiation Transport Modeling," PNNL-25870 Revision 1. DCD Section 12.3.2 does not contain any information about the assumption for concrete density, other than the references to ANSI/ANS 6.4-2006 and PNNL-25870.

DCD Section 12.3.2.4.3, "Reactor Building," states that the major radiation sources in the RXB are associated with the Nuclear Power Module (NPM), chemical volume and control system (CVCS), Pool Clean Up System (PCUS), and spent fuel storage. The CVCS contains radioactive ion exchangers, filters, and heat exchangers. The CVCS is equipped with a resin transfer line used to transport resin slurry to the solid radioactive waste system (SRWS). The line is generically modeled in the RXB shielding model using the CVCS ion exchanger spectra. Major components associated with the radioactive waste processing system are discussed in DCD Section 12.3.2.4.4, "Radioactive Waste Building (RWB)."

DCD Table 12.3-6, "Reactor Building Shield Wall Geometry," provides the nominal thickness of concrete for some of the walls in the RXB. DCD Table 12.3-8, "Reactor Building Radiation Shield Doors," lists the shielded doors located in the RXB. DCD Table 12.3-9, "Radioactive Waste Building Radiation Shield Doors," lists the shielded doors located in the RWB.

DCD Section 12.3.2.4.4, "Radioactive Waste Building (RWB)," states that the RWB houses significant radiation sources that belong to the radioactive waste processing systems. Significant components in the RWB containing radioactive material include: the Liquid Radioactive Waste System, the Gaseous Radioactive Waste System, and the Solid Radioactive Waste System.

DCD Table 12.3-7, "Radioactive Waste Building Shield Wall Geometry," provides the nominal thickness of concrete for some of the walls in the RWB. DCD Table 12.3-9, "Radioactive Waste Building Radiation Shield Doors," list the shielded doors located in the RWB.

Using information made available to the staff during the RPAC Chapter 12 Audit, the staff reviewed some of the shielding calculation information for the RXB and RWB. The staff identified that a number of differences existed between the shielding design information described in the RWB shielding calculation package and the relevant parameters specified in ANSI/ANS 6.4-2006 and PNNL-25870. The staff noted that the density assumed in documents related to the dose rate calculations for the radioactive waste building that were reviewed during the audit used a Granulated Activated Charcoal (GAC) filtration media density of 0.50 grams per cubic centimeter ( $\text{g/cm}^3$ ) instead of the density for charcoal of  $0.32 \text{ g/cm}^3$  listed in PNNL-25870. The staff noted that the density specified for resin contained in some sources appeared to be different than discussed in the DCD. The RWB shielding package referenced gamma photon strength values whose derivation was described in a different calculation package. Based on the staff review, the applicant used a standard method for grouping (aka binning) photon energies (i.e., the number of bins and the energy boundaries used are consistent with recognized standards). However, there appears to be some inconsistencies with the method used by the applicant for determining the quantity of photons used for some sources in the RWB. The shielding calculation package describing the methodology for the RWB shielding used concrete density and other density values that differed from those used in the actual shielding analysis performed for some of the RWB sources. However, the shielding analysis package for the RXB was not available for the staff review, so the staff was unable to assess what values were used in the actual RXB shielding calculations.

#### Key Issue 1

Due to the interrelated, non-linear and cumulative effects of the assumptions for shielding material compositions, density and thicknesses, the staff needs to know the application of key parameters in the NuScale shielding calculations in each specific area. DCD Tier 2 Section 12.3.2, "Shielding," DCD Section 12.3.2.3, "Calculation Methods," and DCD Section 12.3.2.4.3, "Reactor Building," do not specify the values of key assumptions, such as minimum concrete density in the RXB. Small changes to the shielding design parameters have cumulative non-linear effects that may result in a lower attenuating capability of the shielding with the result that dose rates may be non-proportionally higher than the estimated dose rates. In addition to using reasonably conservative shielding parameters to obtain realistic and conservative dose rate estimates, the source strength used in the analysis must be equal to or greater than the source described in the DCD. The source strengths are used as energy binning inputs to the shielding analysis as well as inputs to part of the dose conversion factors used to calculate the dose rate.

Also, using information made available to the staff during the RPAC Chapter 12 Audit, the staff reviewed some of the shielding calculation information for the RXB and the RWB. The staff identified a number of differences between the shielding design information provided for the RXB and for the RWB.

These differences include the following:

- The assumed concrete density for the RWB shield walls appear to be inconsistent with stated standards, and non-conservative for radiation attenuation,
- The density specified for resin contained in some CVCS demineralizers appeared to be different than discussed in the DCD,
- The density stated for the Granulated Activated Charcoal (GAC) filtration media appeared to be non-conservative for radiation attenuation in the GAC.
- The RXB and RWB shielding calculation packages referenced gamma photon strength values whose derivation was described in a different calculation package. Based on the staff review, there appears to be some inconsistencies with the application of the photon source strength method used by the applicant for some sources in the RXB and the RWB.

#### Question 1

To facilitate staff understanding of the application information in support of its reasonable assurance review regarding the RXB and RWB shielding designs, the staff requests that the applicant provide the following:

- Justify/explain the assumptions used to perform the shielding analysis in the RXB and the RWB, including the associated methods, models and assumptions used to establish the identified values,
- Justify/explain the photon source strengths and the resultant tally multiplier factors, used in the RWB shielding analysis package,
- As necessary, revise DCD Section 12.3.2, as appropriate, to describe these assumptions,

OR

Provide the specific alternative approaches used and the associated justification.

## 12.03-58

The Regulatory Basis and Background are in RAI-9279 Question 31027

### Key Issue 2

DCD Tier 1 Section 3.11, "Reactor Building," states that the RXB includes radiation shielding barriers for normal operation and post-accident radiation shielding. It further states that DCD Tier 1 Table 3.11-2, "Reactor Building Inspections, Tests, Analyses, and Acceptance Criteria," contains the inspections, tests, and analyses for the RXB. DCD Tier 1 Table 3.11-1 item 4 Acceptance Criteria states that the thickness of RXB radiation shielding barriers is greater than or equal to the required thickness specified in DCD Tier 1 Table 3.11-1.

DCD Tier 1 Section 3.12, "Radioactive Waste Building," states that the RWB includes radiation shielding barriers for normal operation and post-accident radiation shielding. Also, the RWB includes radiation attenuating doors for normal operation and for post-accident radiation shielding. These doors have a radiation attenuation capability that meets or exceeds that of the wall within which they are installed. DCD Tier 1 Section 3.12 further states that DCD Tier 1 Table 3.12-2: "Radioactive Waste Building ITAAC" contains the inspections, tests, and analyses for the RWB. DCD Tier 1 Table 3.12-2 item 1 Acceptance Criteria states that the thickness of RWB radiation shielding barriers is greater than or equal to the required thickness specified in DCD Tier 1 Table 3.12-1, "Radioactive Waste Building Shield Wall Geometry."

DCD Tier 2 Section 12.3.2.2, "Design Considerations," states that DCD Tier 2 Table 12.3-6 and DCD Tier 2 Table 12.3-7, show the nominal shielding thicknesses for rooms in the RXB and the RWB, respectively. DCD Tier 2 Table 12.3-6, "Reactor Building Shield Wall Geometry," provides the nominal thickness of concrete for some of the walls in the RXB. DCD Tier 2 Table 12.3-7, "Radioactive Waste Building Shield Wall Geometry," provides the nominal thickness of concrete for some of the walls in the RWB.

### Question 2

To facilitate staff understanding of the application information in support of its reasonable assurance review regarding the RXB and RWB shielding designs, the staff requests that the applicant provide the following:

- Justify/explain the apparent differences between DCD Tier 1 Section 3.11 minimum thickness, and DCD Tier 2 Section 12.3.2.2, nominal thickness,
- Describe/explain any differences between the thicknesses used in the shielding analysis packages for the RXB utilize and the shielding thicknesses described in DCD Tier 1 Section 3.11,
- Describe/explain any differences between the thicknesses used in the shielding analysis packages for the RWB and the shielding thicknesses described in DCD Tier 1 Section 3.12,
- As necessary, revise DCD Section 12.3.2, to provide a description of the RXB and RWB shielding requirements that are consistent with DCD Tier 1 Section 3.11 and DCD Tier 1 Section 3.12,
- As necessary, revise the tables in DCD Section 12.3-6 and DCD Section 12.3-7 to reflect the correct thicknesses and nomenclature for RWB radiation shielding,

OR

Provide the specific alternative approaches used and the associated justification.