

INDEPENDENT SPENT FUEL STORAGE INSTALLATION AREA

OVERVIEW

The Reactor Oversight Process enhancement initiative included a recommendation to eliminate U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) inspections of independent spent fuel storage installations (ISFSIs). Although the staff's preliminary assessment is to retain ISFSI inspections, the staff will further evaluate the recommendation to improve the inspections' efficiency and effectiveness, taking into account the NRC Principles of Good Regulation.

DISCUSSION

An ISFSI is a facility designed and constructed for the interim storage of spent nuclear fuel and other radioactive materials associated with the spent fuel. The ISFSI includes the storage pad, the storage containers, and any support facilities. Currently, the NRC inspects an ISFSI to determine whether the licensee is operating it in conformance with applicable requirements.

RECOMMENDATIONS REQUIRING ADDITIONAL EVALUATION

Nuclear Energy Institute Recommendation 1H

This is an industry recommendation to eliminate materials inspections for the ISFSI inspection program as documented in Inspection Procedure (IP) 60855, "Operation of an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation," dated January 16, 2008 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML073100489), and IP 60855.1, "Operation of an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation at Operating Plants," dated September 5, 2006 (ADAMS Accession No. ML062440146). The industry recommended the elimination of redundancies and overlaps with other inspection activities. The recommendation also stated that the resources identified for the various inspection activities are not aligned with the known safety significance associated with dry fuel storage and ISFSI operation.

During the public meeting on November 15, 2018 (ADAMS Accession No. 18348B256), the industry further clarified Recommendation 1H. Instead of eliminating ISFSI inspection activities, the industry recommended reducing the number of hours and resources to perform inspections at ISFSIs located with operating reactors. The industry's revised recommendation suggested having resident inspectors complete ISFSI-related inspection activities.

The staff rejected the original recommendation to eliminate ISFSI inspections, based on the importance of ensuring the safety and security of spent nuclear fuel. The staff plans to evaluate the current ISFSI inspection program and propose recommended changes, as necessary, while seeking to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of ISFSI oversight. The staff plans to complete this work by the end of fiscal year 2019.

STAKEHOLDER VIEWS

There were no additional stakeholder views noted.