



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
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July 23, 2019

MEMORANDUM TO: Ho K. Nieh, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Raymond V. Furstenau **/RA/**  
Director of Nuclear Regulatory Research

SUBJECT: CLOSURE OF GENERIC ISSUE GI-191, "ASSESSMENT OF  
DEBRIS ACCUMULATION ON PWR SUMP PERFORMANCE"

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you that Generic Issue (GI), GI-191, "Assessment of Debris Accumulation on PWR Sump Performance," is closed. This is in response to your memorandum to me recommending closure of GI-191 dated July 22, 2019 (Agencywide Document Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML19157A120). Closure of GI-191 is in accordance with NRC Management Directive (MD) 6.4 "Generic Issues Program" (ADAMS ML18073A162). The MD states that "A regulatory office director may...initiate, at any time, a transfer memorandum informing the GI Program Manager that an issue will be processed using existing regulatory programs and that the issue can exit the program."

MD 6.4 specifies seven criteria for Generic Issues, and states that "If at any time a proposed GI or a GI does not meet any of these criteria, it will not be processed further by the GI program." In particular, criterion 3 is applicable that "The issue is not being addressed using other regulatory programs and processes; existing regulations, policies, or guidance." NRR issued Generic Letter (GL) 2004-02, "Potential Impact of Debris Blockage on Emergency Recirculation during Design Basis Accidents at Pressurized-Water Reactors" (ADAMS ML042360586), to address the issues in GI-191, and is tracking activities for GI-191 as part of GL 2004-02. Although this criterion could have been considered met earlier, the staff did not discontinue processing GI-191 in the GI program because efforts were still ongoing to characterize the complex technical and safety impacts of downstream and chemical effects. RES agrees with NRR that the technical issues identified in GI-191 are now well understood, and that all safety significant issues have been adequately addressed by most licensees. Therefore, GI-191 no longer meets at least one of the seven criteria (and others as well), and GI-191 can be closed. A summary of how the seven criteria apply to GI-191 is enclosed.

The NRC staff will report to Congress and the Commission that GI-191 has been closed out as part of the NRC's next semi-annual report to Congress. We understand that any future activities related to this issue will be conducted and reported by NRR as part of activities associated with the resolution of GL 2004-02.

Enclosure:  
As stated

CONTACT: Stanley Gardocki, RES/DE/RGGIB  
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