



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

August 16, 2022

MEMORANDUM TO: Eric Benner, Director
Division of Engineering and External Hazards
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Kenneth R. See, Dam Safety Officer
Division of Engineering and External Hazards
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

KAR See Signed by See, Kenneth
on 08/16/22

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF PROPOSED UPDATED RISK-
INFORMED SCHEDULE FOR DAM SAFETY INSPECTIONS

Under the capacity as the NRC's Dam Safety Officer, Kenneth R. See recently requested assistance from the Division of Risk Assessment (DRA) to perform an evaluation and provide recommendations on the ultimate heat sink (UHS) dam safety inspections conducted under the Dam Safety Program (DSP). This evaluation had the purpose of applying the principles of risk-informed decision-making (RIDM) to recommend changes, if needed, on the frequency of these inspections for each of the eight (8) nuclear power plant sites under the DSP's jurisdiction.

The report provided by DRA (ADAMS Accession No. ML22094A193) summarizes the staff's approach in the application of the five principles of RIDM to provide an integrated recommendation on changes to the frequency of UHS inspections. The DSP staff has assessed this report and agrees with the recommendations presented by DRA.

Based on the results from the RIDM approaches implemented for this evaluation, the subject matter experts from DRA, and the Dam Safety Officer, agree that the frequency of UHS dam safety inspections for two (2) of the nuclear power plant sites under the DSP's jurisdiction may be decreased to once every three (3) years. The remaining five (5) nuclear power plant sites will retain the current inspection frequency of once every two (2) years, as the evaluation demonstrated that this is the appropriate frequency for these facilities. The dam located at the uranium recovery site is not affected by this assessment and will continue to be inspected once every three (3) years.

Enclosure:

"Recommendation for Changing the Inspection
Frequency for Ultimate Heat Sink Dams Based
on Principles of Risk-Informed Decision Making"
(ADAMS Accession No. ML22217A131)

CONTACT: Kenneth R. See, NRR/DEX
301-415-1508

Richard Rivera, NRR/DANU
301-415-7190

The leadership team of the Division of Engineering and External Hazards (DEX) received a briefing on the processed followed by DRA for this evaluation and the resulting recommendations on July 27, 2022. Based on the information discussed, the DSP staff request that you provide approval on behalf of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation executive members to update the inspection frequency of the sites under the DSP's jurisdiction, as detailed in the above referenced report. The approval for this update should be captured in a memorandum to the NRC's Dam Safety Officer.

Upon your approval, the DSP staff will coordinate the communication of the changes to the pertinent licensees via the corresponding licensing project managers from the Division of Operating Reactor Licensing (DORL).

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