

Leslie Fields

To: MONTGOMERY, Bruce
Cc: Gerond George; Matthew Yoder; Reena Boruk; Steven Bloom; Robert Weisman
Subject: NRC Transmittal of the Final Safety Evaluation for NEI 16-03 Revision 1

Mr. Bruce Montgomery,
Director, Decommissioning and Used Fuel
Nuclear Energy Institute
1201 F Street NW Suite 1100
Washington DC, 20004

SUBJECT: NRC Transmittal of the Final Safety Evaluation for the Nuclear Energy Institute Topical Report, NEI 16-03, Revision 1, "Guidance For Monitoring of Fixed Neutron Absorbers in Spent Fuel Pools"

Dear Mr. Montgomery,

By letter dated August 19, 2022 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML22231B042), as supplemented by letters dated October 12, 2022 (ADAMS Accession No. ML22298A281), December 15, 2022 (ADAMS Accession Nos. ML22349A656), May 23, 2023 (ADAMS Accession Nos. ML23143A306), and August 24, 2023 (ADAMS Accession No. ML23236A503). NEI submitted guidance document, NEI 16-03, Revision (Rev.) 1, "Guidance for Monitoring of Fixed Neutron Absorbers in Spent Fuel Pools", on behalf of its members for U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) review and endorsement.

The NEI provided comments on the draft SE via Box.com on December 19, 2023. A copy of the final SE for TR NEI 16-03 Rev. 1 has been placed on BOX.com and access has been granted for review. The final SE will be published in ADAMS within a week under ADAMS Accession No. ML24011A002.

The NRC staff agrees that the purpose of NEI's document is to provide guidance for licensees to develop an acceptable fixed neutron absorber monitoring program in spent fuel pools (SFPs) as a means to demonstrate compliance with applicable regulations as discussed in the SE. The final SE defines the basis of NRC's acceptance of the TR. NRC's acceptance applies only to information provided in the subject TR. In accordance with the guidance provided on the NRC website, NRC requests that NEI publish an accepted version of the TR, within three months of receipt of the date of this email. The accepted version shall incorporate this email and the enclosed SE after the title page.

This email has been placed in ADAMS (Accession No. ML24011A272) and has been declared as an Official Agency Record for public availability.

Please be informed that the accepted versions of this TR must contain historical review information, including NRC requests for additional information (RAI) questions and the associated responses. The accepted versions shall also include a "-A" (designating approved) following the TR identification symbol.

As an alternative to including the RAI questions and RAI responses behind the title page, if changes to the TR provided to the NRC staff to support the resolution of RAI responses, and if the NRC staff reviewed and approved those changes as described in the RAI responses, there are two ways that the accepted version can capture the RAIs:

(1.) The RAI questions and responses can be included as an Appendix to the accepted version.

(2.) The RAI questions and responses can be captured in the form of a table (inserted after the final SE) which summarizes the changes as shown in the accepted version of the TR. The table should reference the specific RAI questions and RAI responses which resulted in any changes, as shown in the accepted version of the TR.

If future changes to the NRC's regulatory requirements affect the acceptability of this TR, NEI will be expected to revise the TR appropriately. Licensees referencing this TR would be expected to justify its continued applicability or evaluate their plant using the revised TR.

If you have any questions, please contact the Project Manager for the review, Leslie Fields, at 301-415-1186 or via electronic mail at leslie.fields@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

Leslie C. Fields

US NRC Senior Project Manager

301.415.1186

 : leslie.fields@nrc.gov

Final Safety Evaluation By The Office Of Nuclear Reactor Regulation For The Nuclear Energy Institute Topical Report NEI 16-03, Revision 1, "Guidance For Monitoring Of Fixed Neutron Absorbers In Spent Fuel Pools" Project No. 689; Docket No. 99902028; DATE January 30, 2024

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