

May 23, 2014

MEMORANDUM TO: Mark A. Satorius
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Rochelle C. Bavol, Acting Secretary */RA/*

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS – COMSECY-13-0030 – STAFF
EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION FOR JAPAN
LESSONS-LEARNED TIER 3 ISSUE ON EXPEDITED
TRANSFER OF SPENT FUEL

The Commission has approved the staff's recommendation that this Tier 3 Japan lessons-learned activity be closed and that no further generic assessments be pursued related to possible regulatory actions to require the expedited transfer of spent fuel to dry cask storage.

For completeness, the staff should modify the regulatory analysis to explain why the "1 X 8" configuration was not found to provide a substantial increase in safety. Further, to the degree that this configuration does provide some enhancement in safety margin, the staff should develop an Information Notice to inform licensees of the potential added safety benefit of adopting a "1 X 8" configuration. If staff's analysis in support of the agency's consideration of the expedited transfer issue has identified any information not already widely available to licensees, it should be included in the Information Notice.

In light of the Commission's approval of the staff's conclusion in COMSECY-13-0030 resolving the question of spent fuel pool risk generically for all U.S. plants and closing this Tier 3 item, the staff should evaluate whether to modify through amendment or errata the existing process for seismic hazard re-evaluation (10 CFR 50.54(f) Phase 1) to eliminate the spent fuel pool evaluation step for plants that otherwise "screen out." The staff should also evaluate whether to similarly eliminate the spent fuel pool evaluations for plants that "screen in."

The staff should also consider the pending National Academy of Science's (NAS) study on this topic, and report to the Commission the NAS findings and how they comport with further work on spent fuel pool management.

The staff should provide an information paper (classified if necessary) to the Commission:

- a. Detailing staff's views and considerations regarding the treatment of limited term operational vulnerabilities associated with the discharge of spent fuel from cores into pools and explaining how agency requirements and guidance assure the protection of public health, safety and security; if new vulnerabilities or issues are identified the staff should promptly inform the Commission; and

- b. Providing a technical overview of the operational and safety attributes of spent fuel rack designs used in other countries.

(SECY Suspense: 11/24/14)

Staff should remain cognizant of the ongoing efforts by the Department of Energy to develop accident tolerant fuels and engage with the Department as appropriate to facilitate potential future use of these technologies in U.S. commercial nuclear power plants.

cc: Chairman Macfarlane
Commissioner Svinicki
Commissioner Apostolakis
Commissioner Magwood
Commissioner Ostendorff
OGC
CFO
OCA
OPA
Office Directors, Regions, ACRS, ASLBP (via E-Mail)
PDR