

July 16, 2012

IN RESPONSE, PLEASE
REFER TO: M120607C

MEMORANDUM TO: Edwin M. Hackett, Executive Director
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards

R. W. Borchardt
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Andrew L. Bates, Acting Secretary */RA/*

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS – MEETING WITH THE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS, 9:30 A.M.,
THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 2012, COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE
ROOM, ONE WHITE FLINT NORTH, ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND
(OPEN TO PUBLIC ATTENDANCE)

The Commission met with the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) to discuss the Committee's recent accomplishments and its ongoing and future activities. The ACRS presented updates on the following specific issues: 1. Spent Fuel Pool Scoping Study (SFPSS), 2. Implementation of Fukushima Recommendations, 3. State-of-the-Art Reactor Consequences Analyses (SOARCA), and 4. NRC Research Program.

As the ACRS noted in its April 25, 2012, letter on the SFPSS and reiterated during its meeting with the Commission, "since the study will not address the safety consequences of the same severe seismic events on cask loading, transportation, or long-term storage, the overall safety benefit will not be quantified. The possibility that there could be negative safety consequences associated with the expedited loading, transfer, and long-term storage of possibly thousands of DCSS [dry cask storage systems] would need to be considered."

The Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research should conduct a comparative assessment of SFPSS results against previous studies of safety consequences associated with loading, transfer, and long-term dry storage. These previous studies should be updated as necessary to conduct the comparative assessment.

The staff should also conduct a human reliability analysis focused on the capability to implement effective spent fuel pool cooling mitigating strategies, such as those required by 10 CFR 50.54(hh) or the recently issued Order EA-12-49, "Mitigation Strategies for Beyond-Design-Basis External Events."

In addition, the SFPSS should consider the evidence from the performance of the spent fuel pools during the real incidents identified in the additional comments by ACRS members in the April 25, 2012, letter.

The results of the SFPSS and the comparative assessment should be provided to the ACRS for its review, and subsequently provided to the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation for use in disposition of the Near-Term Task Force Tier 3 item on spent fuel storage, and sent to the Commission as an information paper after the staff has addressed the ACRS's comments.

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