

May 20, 2003

MEMORANDUM TO: L. Raghavan, Chief, Section 1
Project Directorate III
Division of Licensing Project Management

FROM: John G. Lamb, Project Manager, Section 1 /RA/
Project Directorate III
Division of Licensing Project Management

SUBJECT: GENERIC SAFETY ISSUE 191, "ASSESSMENT OF DEBRIS
ACCUMULATION ON PWR [PRESSURIZED-WATER REACTOR]
SUMP PERFORMANCE" - PHONE CALL HELD ON MAY 13, 2003,
REGARDING NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE'S LETTER DATED
APRIL 8, 2003 (TAC NO. MB6454)

By letter dated April 8, 2003 (ADAMS Accession No. ML031130547), to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) submitted a white paper which outlines the process for determining breach size in support of local debris generation following a design-basis loss-of-coolant accident (LOCA).

A public meeting was held on April 29, 2003, at NRC headquarters between the NRC staff, NEI, and other interested stakeholders where the NEI white paper was discussed. A summary of the meeting was issued on May 15, 2003 (ADAMS Accession No. ML031210140). At the meeting, the NRC staff stated it would consider a joint option paper between its Division of Systems Safety and Analysis (DSSA) and Division of Engineering (DE) and would take the information presented by NEI and the industry into account.

During its review of the NEI white paper, the NRC staff determined that a conference call with NEI was warranted to clarify information contained in the April 8, 2003, letter, as well as information presented at the April 29, 2003, meeting. A conference call was held on May 13, 2003, between the NRC staff (S. Weerakkody, J. Lenning, R. Architzel, and myself) and NEI staff (A. Pietrangelo and J. Butler) to discuss the NEI white paper.

We discussed three main areas in the conference call: (1) regulatory aspects of the NEI white paper and the lack of discussion of the regulatory framework in the outline process for determining breach size in support of local debris generation following a design-basis LOCA, (2) technical aspects of the NEI white paper and the lack of technical justification for the factor of 1,000 multiplied to the largest stable leakage crack calculated for the primary loop piping that results in a 10 gallon-per-minute leakage, and (3) the lack of risk-informed information in the NEI white paper.

The NRC staff did not request any actions for NEI and the NRC staff stated it is continuing to consider a joint option paper between NRC's DSSA and NRC's DE.

The NEI staff stated it would consider revising its white paper in light of the discussions.

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