

July 5, 2007

MEMORANDUM TO: Luis A. Reyes
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Brian W. Sheron, Director *F. Eltawila signed for*
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

SUBJECT: GENERIC ISSUES IN REGULATORY OFFICE IMPLEMENTATION
STATUS

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you that the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES), with the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) agreement, is changing the status (i.e., Generic Issue Management Control System [GIMCS] Action Level) of the three generic issues (GIs) identified below, from Active to Regulatory Office Implementation.

BACKGROUND:

In SECY-07-0022, "Status Report on Proposed Improvements to the Generic Issues Program," (ML063460239), the staff described elements for improving the Generic Issue Program (GIP). The staff stated these enhancements and the staff's routine tracking and documentation of GIP status would be incorporated into Management Directive (MD) 6.4, "Generic Issus Program." The staff is currently revising MD 6.4 to incorporate this enhancement and other GIP improvements and expects to issue the revised MD 6.4 in mid 2008.

As stated in SECY-07-0022: "The GI process will be concluded when the regulatory product is identified. The regulatory office will proceed, under other established programs and processes, to develop and implement the identified regulatory solution, and perform appropriate verification." The staff is applying this improvement retroactively to GIs that have the technical bases established and regulatory implementation actions in progress with anticipated completion dates beyond the expected issuance of the MD 6.4 revision.

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DISCUSSION:

The GIMCS Action Level of a GI changes from Active to Regulatory Office Implementation when RES informs the regulatory office that the safety, risk, or regulatory assessment actions are complete. This change in status indicates subsequent actions to address the GI will be performed by the responsible Regulatory Office(s), outside the GIP. The RES staff has previously completed the technical assessments for the three GIs below in accordance with MD 6.4, as described in the transition memorandum noted for each GI. Additional background information on these GIs is available in NUREG-0933, "A Prioritization of Generic Safety Issues."

- GI-163, "Multiple Steam Generator Tube Leakage." After the staff completed several technical and regulatory assessment activities from 1992 through 2000, the NRR staff prepared a Steam Generator Action Plan, dated November 16, 2000 (ML003770259), which consolidated GI-163 and numerous other activities related to steam generators. The NRR staff has an anticipated completion date of April 30, 2009, for the necessary regulatory actions.
- GI-189, "Susceptibility of Ice Condenser and Mark III Containments to Early Failure from Hydrogen Combustion During a Severe Accident." The RES staff completed its technical assessment on December 17, 2002 (ML023510161), and NRR has an anticipated completion date of June 30, 2010, for the necessary regulatory actions.
- GI-191, "Assessment of Debris Accumulation on PWR Sump Performance." The RES staff completed its technical assessment on September 28, 2001 (ML012750091), and NRR has an anticipated completion date of November 28, 2008, for the necessary regulatory actions.

Regulatory Office(s) follow their programs and processes, as applicable, to complete regulatory actions and associated documentation, reviews, and reporting commitments identified in these transition memoranda. The transition memorandum marks the completion of the RES actions under the GIP, and denotes Regulatory Office lead for performing subsequent actions. The transition memorandum (and other documents), noted for the three GIs above, identify the commitments that apply for the Regulatory Office actions to address these GIs. The NRR staff is performing follow-on regulatory actions to address the three GIs above and has anticipated completion dates for these follow-on regulatory and closure actions that extend beyond mid 2008, as indicated.

Consequently, consistent with the GIP improvements described in SECY-07-0022, the RES staff is changing the status of these three GIs from Active to Regulatory Office Implementation. The RES staff will continue to coordinate with NRR to obtain update information on these GIs for tracking in GIMCS and for periodic reporting to the Commission and to Congress. The status updates, tracking, and reporting for these GIs will cease when NRR informs RES that regulatory actions and follow-on closure actions identified in the transition memorandum (and other documents) have been completed in accordance with applicable Regulatory Office programs and processes.

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