

January 16, 2012

Dr. Said Abdel-Khalik, Chairman  
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS  
LETTER REGARDING RECOMMENDATIONS ON TOPICAL REPORT  
NEDC-33173P, SUPPLEMENT 2, PARTS 1, 2, AND 3, "ANALYSIS OF GAMMA  
SCAN DATA AND REMOVAL OF SAFETY LIMIT MINIMUM CRITICAL POWER  
RATIO (SLMCPR) MARGIN"

Dear Dr. Abdel-Khalik:

I am responding to the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS or the Committee) letter dated December 12, 2011, documenting the Committee's most recent review of the staff's evaluation of General Electric-Hitachi Nuclear Energy Licensing Topical Report NEDC-33173P-A, Supplement 2, Parts 1, 2, and 3, "Analysis of Gamma Scan Data and Removal of Safety Limit Minimum Critical Power Ratio (SLMCPR) Margin." The staff of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission remains committed to working closely and cooperatively with the Committee to resolve the concerns presented in your letter (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML11341A142).

The staff has reviewed the letter and accepts the Committee's recommendation that, for power-to-flow ratios above 42 MWth/Mlbm/hr, the SLMCPR additional margin be reduced only from 0.03 to 0.02, and the staff will address this in its final safety evaluation for the topical report. The staff agrees that this limitation on the reduction of the additional margin is prudent given the uncertainties in extrapolating beyond the range of the available data. The staff also agrees that further reductions in the added SLMCPR margin for MELLLA+ applications above power-to-flow ratios of 42 MWth/Mlbm/hr should be considered only when additional industry technical data become available.

Dr. Abdel-Khalik

- 2 -

The staff intends to issue its final safety evaluation when it is complete. We appreciate the review, comments, and recommendations provided by the ACRS.

Sincerely,

***/RA by Martin J. Virgilio for/***

R. W. Borchardt  
Executive Director  
for Operations

cc: Chairman Jaczko  
Commissioner Svinicki  
Commissioner Apostolakis  
Commissioner Magwood  
Commissioner Ostendorff  
SECY

Dr. Abdel-Khalik

- 2 -

The staff intends to issue its final safety evaluation when it is complete. We appreciate the review, comments, and recommendations provided by the ACRS.

Sincerely,

***/RA by Martin J. Virgilio for/***

R. W. Borchardt  
Executive Director  
for Operations

cc: Chairman Jaczko  
Commissioner Svinicki  
Commissioner Apostolakis  
Commissioner Magwood  
Commissioner Ostendorff  
SECY

**DISTRIBUTION:** G20110857/EDATS: OEDO-2011-0787

RidsNrrOd    RidsAcrsAcnw\_MailCTR    RidsNrrMailCenter    RidsEdoMailCenter  
RidsResOd    RidsOgcMailCenter    RidsNrrDss

**Package:** ML12005A087

**Incoming:** ML11350A100

**Response:** ML12005A142

OFFICE:	NRR/DSS	TECH ED	NRR/DSS	NRR	EDO
NAME:	AMendiola	KAzariah-Kribbs	WRuland	ELeeds (DDorman for)	RBorchardt MVirgilio for
DATE:	01/05/12	01/05/12	01/09/12	01/11/12	01/16/12

**OFFICIAL RECORD COPY**