

July 9, 2012

MEMORANDUM TO: Chairman Macfarlane
Commissioner Svinicki
Commissioner Apostolakis
Commissioner Magwood
Commissioner Ostendorff

FROM: Michael R. Johnson */RA/*
Deputy Executive Director for Reactors
and Preparedness Programs
Office of the Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT: REVISED SCHEDULE AND PLANS FOR JAPAN LESSONS-
LEARNED

The purpose of this memorandum is to request approval for revisions to proposed Tier 1 and Tier 2 Japan lessons-learned action items. Specifically, the staff proposes to: (1) subsume the Tier 2 orders on emergency preparedness (EP) within an advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPR); and (2) extend the due date for delivery of a Tier 1 notation vote paper on evaluation of boiling water reactor containment vent operability under severe accident conditions to November 2012. The Tier 1 notation vote paper will include a discussion on the considerations for requiring filters.

Tier 2 Emergency Preparedness Orders

In SECY-11-0137, "Prioritization of Recommended Actions to Be Taken in Response to Fukushima Lessons Learned," the staff prioritized the issuance of EP orders associated with Recommendation 9.3 as a Tier 2 action. At that time, the staff recommended engaging stakeholders on acceptance criteria, and developing and issuing an order to ensure that licensees can adequately respond to prolonged station blackout (SBO) and multiunit events. The specific actions were to include: (1) adding guidance to emergency plans for performing multi-unit dose assessments; (2) conducting periodic training and exercises for multi-unit and prolonged SBO scenarios; and (3) ensuring that EP equipment and facilities are sufficient to deal with multi-unit and prolonged SBO scenarios. However, in accordance with the additional work performed and stakeholder input received on this topic, the staff now proposes to include these Tier 2 activities with the EP-related Tier 3 activities in a single ANPR. The staff recommends that it will be more effective and efficient to utilize the ANPR process. An ANPR is an appropriate regulatory action because: (1) continued plant operation and licensing activities do not pose an imminent risk to the public and are not inimical to the common defense and security; (2) recent revisions to the EP regulations and the proposed enhancements to licensee

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staffing and communication equipment will continue to provide adequate protection of public health and safety; and (3) it enhances stakeholder engagement to more fully inform any potential regulatory action.

Tier 1 Notation Vote Paper on Severe Accident Capable Containment Vents, With or Without Filters

In SECY-12-0025, "Proposed Orders and Requests for Information in Response to Lessons Learned from Japan's March 11, 2011, Great Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami," the staff stated that it would develop a notation vote paper by July 2012 on whether containment vents for boiling-water reactors, with Mark I and Mark II containment designs, should be required to operate under severe accident conditions, with or without filters. The staff has made significant progress on this evaluation, including the creation of a working group, gaining the alignment of the Steering Committee on a path forward, and having frequent engagement with stakeholders (industry, public, and nongovernmental organizations). In order to develop a thorough basis to support a recommendation to the Commission regarding whether containment vents should be required to operate under severe accident conditions, with or without filters, the staff has identified a need to perform additional severe accident computer analysis and regulatory analysis, in order to properly evaluate the potential safety benefit of such requirements. Therefore, the staff requests an extension for this notation vote paper until November 30, 2012.

Based on the justification provided above, the staff requests that the Commission grant the revisions to the stated lessons-learned activities to provide the Commission with a more comprehensive and effective path forward on each.

SECY please track.

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*Concurrence via e-mail

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