

July 17, 2012

Dr. J. Sam Armijo, Chairman
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

SUBJECT: NRC STAFF'S DRAFT PLANS AND STATUS SUMMARIES FOR TIER 3 JAPAN
LESSONS LEARNED RECOMMENDATIONS

I am responding to your letter of June 19, 2012, in which you provided the conclusions and observations of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) on the staff's draft program plans for the Tier 3 Japan Lessons Learned recommendations. In addition, the ACRS reviewed the staff's seismic walkdown guidance and guidelines for performing verification walkdowns of plant flood protection features. The staff thanks the ACRS for their thoughtful and insightful comments and observations.

We agree with your overall assessment that the program plans for addressing the Tier 3 recommendations have been developed appropriately at this stage. The plans will be routinely updated as new information becomes available. Sources of new information include stakeholder interactions, national and international lessons learned activities, progress on the higher tier actions in the United States, and event reconstruction and forensic analysis of the Fukushima event from Japan. Accordingly, the staff will consider and incorporate the ACRS' observations as the Tier 3 activities progress.

Regarding the ACRS comment that the scope of the periodic hazards reevaluation should not be limited to earthquakes and external floods, the staff plans to consider other natural hazards before making any final decision.

The staff recognizes the need for continuing interactions with the ACRS and looks forward to further engagement with the ACRS.

Sincerely,

/RA by Michael R. Johnson for/

R. W. Borchardt
Executive Director
for Operations

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

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Letter to Dr. J. Sam Armijo from R. W. Borchardt dated July xx, 2012

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JAPAN LESSONS LEARNED RECOMMENDATIONS

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