

February 26, 2013

MEMORANDUM TO: Sher Bahadur, Deputy Director
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Richard F. Dudley, Senior Project Manager /RA/
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: STATUS OF STAFF EFFORTS IN RESPONSE TO FUKUSHIMA
NEAR-TERM TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATION 1 ON
IMPROVING THE NRC REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The enclosed document was prepared by the Fukushima Near-Term Task Force (NTTF) Recommendation 1 Working Group to inform stakeholders of the current status of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's evaluation of possible activities in response to NTTF Recommendation 1. The NRC staff's previous description of efforts to respond to NTTF Recommendation 1 was publicly released on November 2, 2012 (ADAMS Accession No. ML12296A096). Changes made since then include:

- The previous options are now characterized as "Potential Improvement Activities"
- The staff has revised and further described the nature and scope of each Potential Improvement Activity.
- Former Option 1 (maintain the existing regulatory framework) is now presented as a description of what would occur if none of the Potential Improvement Activities is selected by the Commission
- Cost estimates for the potential improvement activities have been updated.

In addition, the NRC staff wishes to inform stakeholders of an expansion in the scope of the event identification and categorization potential improvement activity. Previously, the staff described only two possible categorization approaches to establish an additional regulatory framework category (earlier Options 4a and 4b). Since then, the staff has identified additional methods to identify and categorize regulatory requirements associated with beyond-design-basis events and accidents. The Working Group is now evaluating these additional categorization alternatives described in Improvement Activity 1 of the enclosure.

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The staff is not accepting public comments on the enclosed information at this time. However, the staff does plan to offer an opportunity for public comments on approaches to disposition NTTF Recommendation 1 in late summer under Docket NRC-2012-0173 on the federal rulemaking web site www.regulations.gov. Additionally, staff is planning to hold two additional public meetings.

The schedule for completing this activity is being re-evaluated to allow for additional stakeholder interaction. The staff understands that industry representatives plan to submit a recommended regulatory framework approach by March 31, 2013. An extended schedule will allow the NRC to review the industry proposal and solicit feedback from external stakeholders, including the Advisory Committee for Reactor Safeguards.

Enclosure:
As stated

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