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To: aceactivists@comcast.net
Cc: "Diane Screnci" <Diane.Screnci@nrc.gov>, "Neil Sheehan" <Neil.Sheehan@nrc.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 8, 2013 2:18:39 PM
Subject: In Response to ACE Emails Dated February 27, March 5, 7 and 8, 2013

Dr. Lewis Cuthbert, ACE President:

I am in receipt of your email dated February 27, providing questions and views about waste disposal at the Limerick Generating Station. I plan to provide you a response prior to March 21, 2013.

I also received your email dated March 5 providing two questions regarding Limerick Generating Station and the NRC power up-rate and license renewal review processes. Our response is provided in the following:

- 1) Does Exelon still plan to ask for Up-rates in addition to those already approved for Limerick or not?

Currently Exelon has not submitted a Power Up-rate amendment request for NRC review. The decision to submit a request for a power Up-rate amendment is made by the licensee (Exelon). Questions regarding Exelon's plans should be directed to Exelon as I cannot comment on decisions that may be made by a licensee regarding whether to submit a licensee amendment request.

- 2) If Exelon still plans more Up-rates at Limerick, will harmful impacts be considered by NRC BEFORE relicensing? If not, why not?

Let me assure you that any license amendment request or issuance of a renewed operating license for a nuclear power plant will only be completed after the NRC ensures the request meets our rigorous safety requirements.

That being said, license renewal and "power up-rates" are separate regulatory review processes which amend and update the NRC issued current plant operating license. The links below are to "Fact Sheets" concerning the Power Up-rate and License Renewal processes. In order to evaluate the safety of a nuclear power plant license amendment request, it is not appropriate for the NRC staff to speculate on potential future requested license changes. The NRC's review is based on the information required to be submitted by the licensee for the specific license amendment. If a plant's operating license is renewed and the licensee subsequently submits a power -up-rate license amendment request, the licensee must evaluate any impact on the plants current licensing basis. As such, if aging management programs, in place as part of the prior license renewal and approval process, were potentially affected by the power up-rate license amendment request, the aging management programs would be evaluated as part of our review of the power up-rate request.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/fact-sheets/power-uprates.html>

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/fact-sheets/fs-reactor-license-renewal.html>

Finally, I received your emails dated March 7 and today (March 8) regarding our planned informational public meeting on March 21, 2013. I and members of my staff will be available at this meeting to discuss NRC's assessment of safety performance at the Limerick Generating Station for 2012. There were a number of factors in our decision to schedule the meeting on March 21, 2013.

Regarding your request for "NRC's annual report on Limerick," I believe you are referring to the NRC annual assessment letter for the Limerick Generating Station for 2012. This document is referenced in the Annual Assessment Meeting notice you received and can be found in the NRC's Agency Wide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) under Accession Number ML13063A127. I have attached a copy of this letter for your convenience.

Notwithstanding your concern regarding the scheduling of the Limerick Annual Assessment Open House meeting, I would like to invite you to this meeting and look forward to the opportunity to speak with you.

Respectfully,

Mel Gray
Chief, Branch 4
Division of Reactor Projects