

May 2, 2013

MEMORANDUM TO: William D. Reckley, Chief
Policy and Support Branch
Japan Lessons-Learned Project Directorate
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Rajender Auluck, Senior Project Manager **/RA/**
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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MARCH 29, 2013 MEETING TO DISCUSS
ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF
NEAR-TERM TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATION 5.1 RELATED
TO CONTAINMENT VENTING SYSTEMS

On March 29, 2013, a Category 2 public meeting was held between the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff and representatives from the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and Boiling Water Owners group (BWROG) related to industry initiatives for the Implementation of Recommendation 5.1 of the Near-Term Task Force Recommendations for Enhancing Reactor Safety in the 21st Century report, issued July 12, 2011, (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML111861807). The purpose of this meeting was to share information and to have a better understanding of activities to be completed as directed by the Commission in Staff Requirements Memorandum (SRM) to SECY-12-0157 dated March 19, 2013.

The NRC staff opened the meeting by providing an overview of the SRM and the associated activities directed by the Commission. These activities will include (i) preparation of a modification to Order EA-12-050 upgrading the requirements for the reliable hardened vents to remain functional during severe accident conditions, (ii) development of technical basis for filtration strategies with drywell filtration and severe accident management of containments, (iii) development of proposed and final rules for filtering strategies, and (iv) seek Commission guidance on use of qualitative factors in regulatory decisions. The NRC staff stated that it has initiated some of these activities and will be holding public meetings and soliciting stakeholders and public inputs. The NRC plans to issue the revised order sometime in May 2013 and in parallel initiate activities related to interim staff guidance and rulemaking alternatives for filtering strategies.

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The NRC senior management emphasized the need for clear understanding of what needs to be included in the revision to the Order and in the rulemaking strategies. In addition, one needs to be mindful of other related activities like mitigation strategies, integration of onsite emergency procedures, and hydrogen control. The NEI senior representatives also agreed that, moving forward, the scope of the Order and the rulemaking needs to be clearly understood by all parties which will help in meeting the deadlines directed in the Commission SRM. There should also be open lines of communication between all parties. Industry representatives raised the question of importance of defining a severe accident. The NRC staff agreed that the definition should be clarified and should be consistent with national and international understanding. This was taken as an agenda item for the next meeting. Later in the meeting, the NRC staff provided their initial thoughts and rational on each of the requirement items described in the draft Order included as Enclosure 7A of SECY-12-0157. Other items of interest which were raised during the meeting included need for a drywell vent, use of passive features, evaluation of results obtained with different computer codes for accident analysis, and the implementation schedule. Again, all parties agreed that these items should be discussed in future meetings.

Members of the public attended in person and through the telecommunications bridgeline and webinar. At designated points during the meeting, members of the public were invited to provide any comments on the presentations. Members of the public mainly asked clarifying questions, and there were some comments similar to previous comments received by the NRC.

A list of attendees is provided in ADAMS under Accession No. ML13112A822. The Presentation slides are located in ADAMS under Accession No. ML13112A728.

Enclosures:

1. List of attendees
2. Presentation slides

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