

January 9, 2014

Mr. Joseph E. Pollock, Vice President
Nuclear Operations
Nuclear Energy Institute
1201 F Street NW, Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mr. Pollock:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has considered the technical information transmitted to the NRC by the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) on behalf of the Boiling Water Reactor Owners Group (BWROG) entitled "BWR Containment Venting." This technical report was made available in an NEI letter dated November 21, 2013 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML13352A057). The purpose of this report is to provide information in support of the ongoing NRC audits. In particular, the report discusses changes to containment venting strategies based on Revision 3 to the BWROG's emergency procedure guidelines/severe accident guidelines (EPG/SAG) that were developed based on lessons learned from Fukushima. The NRC staff interacted with your staff and external stakeholders during the development of this technical position.

The NRC staff agrees that the changes to the containment venting strategies as described in the BWROG information report are acceptable for use as part of strategies proposed in response to Order EA-12-049, provided that licensee implementation is in compliance with normal change processes for plant emergency procedures and provided that plant-specific evaluations support the use of the revised strategies. The BWROG paper addresses the venting strategy on a generic basis, but plant-specific implementation relies on such items as the capabilities of the installed vent path, net positive suction head for the reactor coolant system injection pumps, and guidance to prevent negative pressure in containment. The NRC staff will evaluate a licensee's application of containment venting strategies in its development of the final Safety Evaluation documenting compliance with NRC Order EA-12-049.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Jack R. Davis, Director
Mitigating Strategies Directorate
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Mitigating Strategies Directorate
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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