



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS
WASHINGTON, DC 20555 - 0001**

March 27, 2015

The Honorable Stephen G. Burns
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

SUBJECT: SUMMARY REPORT – 622nd MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS, MARCH 6-7, 2015

Dear Chairman Burns:

During its 622nd meeting, March 6 - 7, 2015, the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) discussed several matters and completed the following reports and memoranda:

REPORTS

Reports to Stephen G. Burns, Chairman, NRC, from John W. Stetkar, Chairman, ACRS:

- Report on the Safety Aspects of the License Renewal Application of the Sequoyah Nuclear Plant Units 1 and 2, dated March 13, 2015
- Review of Draft SECY Paper, "Cumulative Effects of Regulation Process Enhancements and Risk Prioritization Initiative: Response to Commission Direction and Recommendations," dated March 11, 2015

MEMORANDA

Memoranda to Mark A. Satorius, Executive Director for Operations, NRC, from Edwin M. Hackett, Executive Director, ACRS:

- Draft Regulatory Guides, dated March 11, 2015
 - DG-1314, "Quality Group Classifications and Standards for Water-, Steam-, and Radioactive-Waste-Containing Components for Nuclear Power Plants
 - DG-5057, "Special Nuclear Material Control and Accounting System for Non-Fuel Cycle Facilities"

- Interim Staff Guidance, dated March 11, 2015
 - Interim Staff Guidance XY, Revision 0, Acute Uranium Exposure Standards

HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ISSUES

1. Safety Aspects of the License Renewal Application of the Sequoyah Nuclear Plant Units 1 and 2

The Committee met with representatives of the NRC staff and the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) to discuss the Sequoyah Nuclear Plant Units 1 and 2 license renewal application and the associated final Safety Evaluation Report. During the meeting, TVA provided an overview of the plant, identified major component replacements, and described their aging management programs and license renewal commitments. The staff discussed closure of one open item identified in the draft Safety Evaluation Report that addressed reactor vessel internals neutron fluence in the upper core plate. The staff concluded that the applicant had adequately addressed their concerns and closed the open item. The staff also concluded that the requirements of 10 CFR 54.29(a)(1) and (a)(2) were met for the license renewal of Sequoyah Nuclear Plant Units 1 and 2.

Committee Action

The Committee issued a letter report to the NRC Chairman on this matter, dated March 13, 2015, recommending that the TVA application for renewal of the operating license for Sequoyah Nuclear Plant Units 1 and 2 should be approved.

2. Draft SECY Paper, "Cumulative Effects of Regulation Process Enhancements and Risk Prioritization Initiative: Response to Commission Direction and Recommendations"

The Committee met with representatives of the NRC staff and the Nuclear Energy Institute to discuss the draft SECY Paper, "Cumulative Effects of Regulation Process Enhancements and Risk Prioritization Initiative: Response to Commission Direction and Recommendations." The staff's discussion of the draft SECY paper described four options for the Commission's consideration: (1) Maintain the status quo, (2) Augment existing regulatory processes for power reactors with the proposed practices to address the cumulative effects of regulation and the risk prioritization initiative, (3) Establish voluntary alternative plant-specific implementation schedules in prospective new rules for power reactors, and (4) Initiate rulemaking to allow risk-prioritized scheduling flexibility by power reactor licensees. Options 2, 3, and 4 extend this initiative progressively from voluntary requests for changes to regulatory implementation schedules to rulemaking that could obviate the need for exemptions and allow licensees to prioritize regulatory issues using plant-specific risk information. The staff has recommended implementation of Option 2 and a pilot application of Option 3.

Committee Action

The Committee issued a letter report to the NRC Chairman on this matter, dated March 11, 2015. With regard to the four options, the Committee endorsed the staff's recommendations to implement Option 2 and a pilot application of Option 3. The Committee recommended that the staff should explicitly include risk information as an input to decisions and priorities for proposed regulatory actions, regardless of the Commission's decisions about specific options or approaches presented in this SECY paper. In addition, if the Commission endorses a risk-informed prioritization process that is embodied in Option 2, 3, or 4, the staff should expedite development of regulatory guidance for its use and reviews.

3. Meeting with the Commission

The March meeting with the Commission was canceled due to inclement weather.

4. Draft Regulatory Guides

The Committee considered the following draft regulatory guides and decided not to review them. The Committee has no objection to the staff's proposal to issue the guides for public comment, but would like an opportunity to review the draft final versions of these guides following the public comment period.

- Draft Regulatory Guide 1314, "Quality Group Classifications and Standards for Water-, Steam-, and Radioactive-Waste Containing Components for Nuclear Power Plants"
- Draft Regulatory Guide 5057, "Special Nuclear Material Control and Accounting System for Non-Fuel Cycle Facilities"
- Interim Staff Guidance XY, Revision 0, "Acute Uranium Exposure Standards"

RECONCILIATION OF ACRS COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Committee considered the Executive Director for Operations response of January 16, 2015, to comments and recommendations included in the December 17, 2014 ACRS letter on draft Branch Technical Position (BTP) 8-9, "Open Phase Conditions in Electric Power Systems." The Committee was satisfied with the Executive Director for Operations response.
- The Committee considered the Executive Director for Operations response of February 18, 2015, to comments and recommendations included in the December 10, 2014 ACRS letter on the Commission Paper, "Integration of Mitigating Strategies for Beyond-Design-Basis External Events and the Reevaluation of Flooding Hazards." The Committee was satisfied with the Executive Director for Operations response.

SCHEDULED TOPICS FOR THE 623rd ACRS MEETING

The following topics are scheduled for the 623rd ACRS meeting, to be held on April 9-11, 2015:

- Topical Report NEDE-33766P, "GEH Simplified Stability Solution (GS3)"
- Draft Proposed Rulemaking for Mitigation of Beyond-Design-Basis Events
- Development of Interim Staff Guidance (ISG) in Support of Order EA-13-109 (Reliable Hardened Vents) Phase 2

Sincerely,

/RA/

John W. Stetkar
Chairman

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Sincerely,

/RA/

John W. Stetkar
Chairman

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