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May 1, 2015

Mr. Jack R. Davis
Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Subject: Alternative Approach to NEI 12-06 Guidance for Hoses and Cables

Project Number: 689

Dear Mr. Davis:

On behalf of the nuclear energy industry, the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI)¹ is submitting a proposed alternative to NEI 12-06, Rev 0. The alternative addresses the approach for meeting the N+1 provision of Section 3 of the guidance with respect to hoses and cables.

NEI is seeking NRC concurrence with the proposed alternative.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact myself at (202) 739-8058 or (nxp@nei.org) or Scott Bauer at (602) 228-4520 or (sab@nei.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. Pappas", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Nicholas Pappas

Attachment

c: Mandy Halter, NRR/JLD/PPSD/JOMB, NRC

¹ The Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) is the organization responsible for establishing unified industry policy on matters affecting the nuclear energy industry, including the regulatory aspects of generic operational and technical issues. NEI's members include all entities licensed to operate commercial nuclear power plants in the United States, nuclear plant designers, major architect/engineering firms, fuel cycle facilities, nuclear materials licensees, and other organizations and entities involved in the nuclear energy industry.

Issue:

An alternative is being proposed to the N+1 requirement applicable to hoses and cables as stated in Section 3.2.2 of NEI 12-06.

Background

NEI 12-06, Section 3.2.2 specifically states that a site will have FLEX equipment to meet the needs of each unit on a site plus one additional spare. This is commonly known as N+1 where N is the number of units at a given site. The relevant text from NEI 12-06 is as follows:

NEI 12-06, Section 3.2.2 states:

"In order to assure reliability and availability of the FLEX equipment required to meet these capabilities, the site should have sufficient equipment to address all functions at all units on-site, plus one additional spare, i.e., an N+1 capability, where "N" is the number of units on-site. Thus, a two-unit site would nominally have at least three portable pumps, three sets of portable ac/dc power supplies, three sets of hoses & cables, etc."

NEI 12-06, Section 11.3.3 states:

"FLEX mitigation equipment should be stored in a location or locations informed by evaluations performed per Sections 5 through 9 such that no one external event can reasonably fail the site FLEX capability (N)."

Typically the hoses utilized to implement a FLEX strategy are not a single continuous hose but are composed of individual sections of a smaller length joined together to form a sufficient length. In the case of cables, multiple individual lengths are used to construct a circuit such as in the case of 3 phase power.

Proposed Alternative:

NEI 12-06 currently requires N+1 sets of hoses and cables. As an alternative, the spare quantity of hose and cable is adequate if it meets either of the two methods described below:

Method 1: Provide additional hose or cable equivalent to 10% of the total length of each type/size of hose or cable necessary for the "N" capability. For each type/size of hose or cable needed for the "N" capability, at least 1 spare of the longest single section/length must be provided.

Example 1-1: An installation requiring 5,000 ft. of 5 in. diameter fire hose consisting of 100 50 ft. sections would require 500 ft. of 5 in. diameter spare fire hose (i.e., ten 50 ft. sections).

Example 1-2: A pump requires a single 20 ft. suction hose of 4 in. diameter, its discharge is connected to a flanged hard pipe connection. One spare 4 in. diameter 20 ft. suction hose would be required.

Example 1-3: An electrical strategy requires 350 ft. cable runs of 4/0 cable to support 480 volt loads. The cable runs are made up of 50 ft. sections coupled together. Eight cable runs (2 cables runs per phase and 2 cable runs for the neutral) totaling 2800 ft. of cable (56 sections) are required. A minimum of 280 ft. spare cable would be required or 6 spare 50 ft. sections.

Example 1-4: An electrical strategy requires 100 ft. of 4/0 cable (4 cables, 100 ft. each) to support one set of 4 kv loads and 50 ft. of 4/0 (4 cables, 50 ft. each) to support another section of 4 kv loads. The total length of 4/0 cable is 600 ft. (100 ft. x 4 plus 50 ft. x 4). One spare 100' 4/0 cable would be required representing the longest single section/length.

Method 2: Provide spare cabling and hose of sufficient length and sizing to replace the single longest run needed to support any single FLEX strategy.

Example 2-1 – A FLEX strategy for a two unit site requires 8 runs each of 500 ft. of 5 in. diameter hose (4000 ft. per unit). The total length of 5 in. diameter hose required for the site is 8000 ft. with the longest run of 500 ft. Using this method, 500 ft. of 5 in. diameter spare hose would be required.

For either alternative method, both the N sets of hoses or cables and the spare set of hoses or cables would all be kept in a location that meets the reasonable protection requirements for the site.

Basis for an alternative approach:

Hoses and cables are passive devices unlikely to fail provided they are appropriately inspected and maintained. The most likely cause of failure is mechanical damage during handling provided that the hoses and cables are stored in areas with suitable environmental conditions (e.g., cables stored in a dry condition and not subject to chemical or petroleum products). The hoses and cables for the FLEX strategies will be stored and maintained in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations including any shelf life requirements. Initial inspections and periodic inspections or testing will be incorporated in the site's maintenance and testing program implemented in accordance with Section 11.5 of NEI 12-06.

Therefore, the probability of a failure occurring during storage is minimal, resulting in the only likely failure occurring during implementation. Mechanical damage will likely occur in a single section versus a complete set of hose or cable. Therefore, the N+1 alternative addresses the longest individual section/length of hose or cable.

Providing either a spare cable or hose of a length of 10% of the total length necessary for the "N" capability or alternatively providing spare cabling or hose of sufficient length and sizing to replace the single longest run needed to support any single FLEX strategy is sufficient to ensure a strategy can be implemented. Mechanical damage during implementation can be compensated for by having enough spares to replace any damaged sections with margin. It is reasonable to expect that an entire set of hoses or cables would not be damaged provided they have been reasonably protected.