

August 10, 2015

Mr. Christopher Earls, Senior Director
Engineering & Licensing
Nuclear Energy Institute
1201 F Street, NW, Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mr. Earls:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your March 25, 2015, letter (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML15089A328) submitting a white paper, NEI 15-01, "An Analytical Approach for Establishing Degraded Voltage Relay (DVR) Settings," (ADAMS Accession No. ML15089A329) for review and endorsement. The NRC would like to thank the NEI for submitting this white paper, and encourages industry and all licensees to continue working toward a final resolution of this DVR issue.

As noted in the June 21, 2012, letter from Michael Johnson to Mr. Anthony Pietrangelo (ADAMS Accession No. ML12131A001), the staff agrees with the value of establishing consolidated guidance in a regulatory guide. The staff has been working toward that end through the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) Standard 741 working group (Working Group 4.7 of IEEE Subcommittee SC-4, "Auxiliary Power") to achieve consensus on the issues of concern, and to establish appropriate resolution of those issues. The NRC staff remains committed to resolving the low and degraded voltage issues, and is committed to developing guidance through a future regulatory guide which would provide licensees one way to meet GDC-17 criteria for low and degraded voltage issues. The staff will use the information within NEI 15-01 to determine our path forward. This future regulatory guide will also be used to address issues with under-voltage conditions that are not addressed in the Regulatory Issue Summary 2011-12, Revision 1, "Adequacy of Station Electrical Distribution System Voltages." NRC will continue to work industry and external stakeholders as part of the development of the regulatory guidance.

Should you or your staff have any questions, please contact Dr. Matthew Humberstone at (301) 415-1464 or Ms. Tania Martinez-Navedo at (301) 415-6561.

Sincerely,

/RA/

John W. Lubinski, Director
Division of Engineering
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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John W. Lubinski, Director
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***via electronic concurrence**

NRR-106

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