



**UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

February 17, 2017

Mr. Neil Wilmshurst  
Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer  
Electric Power Research Institute  
1300 West W. T. Harris Blvd  
Charlotte, NC 28262-8550

On September 28, 2016, we signed the Memorandum of Understanding (the MOU) and Addenda between the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (NRC/RES) and the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) on Cooperative Nuclear Safety Research.

The attached NDE Addendum to the MOU provides the NRC/EPRI cooperative research agreement addressing nondestructive examination (NDE Addendum) which has been developed collaboratively between NRC/EPRI staff. To date, the NDE Addendum has successfully addressed: (1) visual testing; (2) inspection of cast austenitic stainless steel; (3) use of ultrasonic testing in lieu of radiographic testing; (4) root mean square error; (5) documentation of the basis for Section XI, Mandatory Appendix VIII; (6) NDE of high density polyethylene (HDPE) piping; (7) NDE modeling. The attached NDE Addendum supersedes the NDE Addendum dated April 14, 2014 in its entirety. Further, this NDE Addendum revises the expiration date to September 30, 2021, changes the NRC project manager, and adds an eighth attachment addressing human performance influences on NDE.

Enclosed please find the signed NDE Addendum which enables RES and EPRI staff to continue cooperation on these research activities. The information will be shared on a basis that is consistent with the procedures outlined in the addendum. The NRC will maintain its independence consistent with its regulatory function.

Our two organizations have worked well together over many years, and I believe the cooperation has been very beneficial for nuclear safety and the Nation. We look forward to many more successful years for our partnership.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Michael F. Weber  
Director of Nuclear Regulatory Research

Enclosure:  
As stated

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