

July 1, 2016

Mr. Michael D. Tschiltz  
Director, Risk Assessment  
Nuclear Energy Institute  
1201 F St., NW, Suite 1100  
Washington, DC 20004-1218

SUBJECT: RETIREMENT OF NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION 805  
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION 08-0046 "INCIPIENT FIRE DETECTION  
SYSTEMS"

Dear Mr. Tschiltz:

In an effort to advance the state of knowledge with regard to very early warning fire detection systems (VEWFDS) in nuclear facilities, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) pursued the development of draft NUREG-2180, "Determining the Effectiveness, Limitations, and Operator Response for Very Early Warning Fire Detection Systems in Nuclear Facilities (DELORES-VEWFIRE)," available in the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) at Accession No. ML16172A293. Although NUREG-2180 is still in the final publication process, it is expected that any revisions to the document will be non-technical and that the final, published version, while superseding the draft, will not indicate any methodological changes.

The NRC had previously endorsed the methodology described in National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 805 Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) 08-0046 "Incipient Fire Detection Systems" (ADAMS Accession No. ML093220426) as interim guidance. In light of the improved state of knowledge gained from the development of draft NUREG-2180, the NRC is retiring FAQ 08-0046 effective July 29, 2016. Licensees who credited the installation of VEWFDS using the methods in FAQ 08-0046 are expected to evaluate the impact on their PRA in accordance with their licensing bases, e.g., license conditions and Section 1.4 of Regulatory Guide 1.200, Revision 2, "An Approach for Determining the Technical Adequacy of Probabilistic Risk Assessment Results for Risk-Informed Activities," March 2009 (ADAMS Accession No. ML090410014). For licensees with applications currently undergoing NRC review, VEWFDS credit will be assessed on a plant by plant basis.

Sincerely,

***/RA by Russell Felts for***

Joseph G. Giitter, Director  
Division of Risk Assessment  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

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**\*via email**

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