



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

February 28, 2017

Mr. Andrew N. Mauer
Senior Project Manager
Nuclear Energy Institute
1201 F Street, NW, Suite 1100
Washington, DC

**SUBJECT: ENDORSEMENT OF ELECTRIC POWER RESEARCH INSTITUTE REPORT
 3002009564, "SEISMIC EVALUATION GUIDANCE: SPENT FUEL POOL
 INTEGRITY EVALUATION"**

Dear Mr. Mauer

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) letter¹ dated January 31, 2017, regarding the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) Report No. 3002009564 entitled, "Seismic Evaluation Guidance: Spent Fuel Pool Integrity Evaluation" (hereafter referred to as the Spent Fuel Pool (SFP) Evaluation Guidance Report)². The NEI letter was submitted to support licensee responses to Enclosure 1 of the March 12, 2012, information request³ that was issued pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), Section 50.54(f) (hereafter referred to as the 50.54(f) letter). The 50.54(f) letter was issued as part of the lessons learned from the accident at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear facility.

The NRC staff has interacted with stakeholders on the development of the SFP Evaluation Guidance Report to support completion of SFP evaluations for sites with re-evaluated seismic hazard exceedance in the 1-10 Hertz frequency range. This report provides guidance for plants where the ground motion response spectrum (GMRS) peak spectral acceleration is above 0.8g (hereafter referred to as high GMRS sites). Specifically, this report supplements the guidance in the Seismic Evaluation Guidance, Screening, Prioritization and Implementation Details (SPID)⁴. This report also includes the guidance in previously NRC-endorsed EPRI 3002007148⁵ which provided guidance for plants where the GMRS peak spectral acceleration is less than or equal to 0.8g (hereafter referred to as low GMRS sites). While the low GMRS guidance is included in this report, it is unchanged from the previously issued guidance.

The SFP Evaluation Guidance Report is the product of significant interaction between the NRC, NEI, EPRI, and other industry stakeholders including members of the public, at nine public meetings.⁶ The insights gained from the public meetings allowed for the development of this

¹ The letter can be found at Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML17031A171.

² The SFP Evaluation Guidance Report is available in ADAMS under Accession No. ML17031A176.

³ The 50.54(f) letter is available in ADAMS under Accession No. ML12053A340.

⁴ The SPID guidance can be found at ADAMS Accession No. ML12333A170.

⁵ The NRC endorsement letter can be found at ADAMS Accession No. ML15350A158.

⁶ Public meetings were held on October 27, 2014, February 11, 2015, March 30, 2015, May 21, 2015, July 15, 2015, September 3, 2015, October 21, 2015, April 20, 2016, and November 15, 2016 (meeting summaries can be found at ADAMS Accession Nos.

document in an effective and transparent manner. The meetings helped develop the expectations for how licensees would perform SFP evaluations.

The NRC staff has reviewed the SFP Evaluation Guidance Report and found the guidance to be an acceptable method for licensees to use when responding to NRC Requested Information Item (9) in Enclosure 1 of the 50.54(f) letter. Licensees with GMRS exceedance in the 1-10 Hertz frequency range may use the SFP Guidance Report as an acceptable approach for responding to the information requested. Licensees are encouraged to adopt the SFP Evaluation Guidance Report without deviation to expedite the review process. Licensee deviations from the guidance should be discussed in their SFP evaluation submittal and may result in requests for additional information and impact the time necessary to complete any review.

The NRC staff notes that additional public interactions are planned with NEI and industry stakeholders to develop a SFP evaluation submittal template. The development of a submittal template will help to improve the efficiency of the staff's review and reduce the need for requests for additional information from licensees.

According to NRC letter dated October 27, 2015 (ADAMS Accession No. ML15194A015), the SFP evaluations using the guidance in the SFP Evaluation Guidance Report pertaining to high GMRS sites are expected by December 31, 2017. The SFP evaluations for low GMRS sites were to be submitted to the NRC by December 31, 2016.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Frankie Vega at 301-415-1617 or by email at Frankie.Vega@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Michael X. Franovich, Acting Director
Japan Lessons-Learned Division
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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"SEISMIC EVALUATION GUIDANCE: SPENT FUEL POOL INTEGRITY EVALUATION"
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