



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

May 19, 2020

MEMORANDUM TO: Christopher Regan, Deputy Director
Division of Fuel Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

FROM: Yen-Ju Chen, Sr. Project Manager
Storage and Transportation Licensing Branch
Division of Fuel Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MAY 8, 2020, PUBLIC MEETING WITH PUBLIC
TO DISCUSS TEMPORARY REGULATORY RELIEF
PATHWAYS FOR NRC INDEPENDENT SPENT FUEL
STORAGE INSTALLATION LICENSEES DURING THE
COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

On May 8, 2020, staff from the Division of Fuel Management held a public meeting with representatives from the Decommissioning Plant Coalition and Nuclear Energy Institute. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss how the independent spent fuel storage installation licensees can request temporary regulatory relief during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) public health emergency (PHE) through submission of certain exemption requests. At the meeting, the staff also listened to the industry representatives on the types of regulatory relief that they anticipate they may need during the COVID-19 PHE and answered questions from the public on the relief request process.

The meeting was noticed on April 28, 2020 (Agencywide Document Access and Management System [ADAMS] Accession No. ML20126G248) and the presentation slides (ADAMS Accession No. ML20126G244) was provided online on May 6, 2020. Approximately 100 people participated in the meeting. A list of partial attendees from WebEx attendance is included in Enclosure 1.

During the meeting, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) stated that the staff is prepared to use its existing authority to consider granting relief from specific regulatory requirements when requested by a licensee. The NRC has been in close communications with its licensees to understand precautions being taken at facilities regarding COVID-19 PHE, the impact of COVID-19 on facility operational status, and any potential compliance issues that may result in specific needs for regulatory relief during the COVID-19 PHE.

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The industry representatives stated that the industry group had weekly calls to identify potential issues and the time when the issues could happen, and shared best practices to mitigate these issues. It was noted that some licensees may need relief from annual security personnel training and physical examination requirements.

The staff discussed the methods for licensees to seek regulatory relief outlined in the April 7, 2020 (ADAMS Accession No. ML20094G166), letter issued by John Lubinski, Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards. The staff also discussed the information to be included in the relief request to facilitate the staff's review to ensure the continued safe and secure operations of the facilities.

The staff answered the public's questions on the length of exemptions, NRC's communication with the licensees and monitoring of operations, and the protection of facilities' safety. There were a few comments about the meeting starting time which is early for west coast participants. The staff apologized and noted it will take this into consideration for the next meeting.

Enclosure: Partial Attendee List

CAC: A33009

EPID: L-2020-LLE-0013

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***via email**

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