

November 13, 2007

MEMORANDUM TO: AFPB File

FROM: Alex R. Klein, Chief **/RA by Naeem Iqbal for/**
Fire Protection Branch
Division of Risk Assessment
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: CLOSURE OF NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION 805
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION NUMBER 06-0021.

Summary of Issue Raised by Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) 06-0021

The Fire Protection Branch has reviewed National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 805 FAQ 06-0021, Revision 1a. This FAQ seeks clarification of NFPA 805, "Standard for Fire Protection for Light Water Reactor Electric Generating Plants (2001 Edition)," Chapter 3, Section 3.3.5.2, which states, "*Only metal tray and metal conduits shall be used for electrical raceways. Thin wall metallic tubing shall not be used for power, instrumentation, or control cables. Flexible metallic conduits shall only be used in short lengths to connect components.*" Specifically, this FAQ asks to clarify that exposed cable air drops (bare cable runs without conduit) of approximately 3 feet in length, which is a previously approved configuration, are acceptable.

FAQ Proposal

The NFPA 805 Industry Task Force proposes a specific clarification for NFPA 805, Section 3.3.5.2, that the use of exposed cable air drops of limited length (approximately 3 feet) are considered acceptable.

This specific clarification of NFPA 805 as applied under Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) 04-02 will be included in (New) Appendix K, to NEI 04-02.

NRC Staff Conclusion

Cable air drops are often used in nuclear power plants to connect components. Cable air drops can be configured as short lengths (approximately 3 feet) of bare cables, or cables installed in flexible metallic conduits. The FAQ preparer believes that Section 3.3.5.2 of NFPA 805 could be interpreted to prohibit the use of short lengths of bare cables. The FAQ preparer proposes that this is not the intent of Section 3.3.5.2, and requests clarification as described above. The NRC staff agrees with the preparer's interpretation, and concludes that the intent of Section 3.3.5.2, is not to prohibit short length cable air drops, rather the intent of the section is to prohibit the use of long runs, in excess of approximately 3 feet, of flexible metallic conduits. Based on the above, the staff concludes that the clarification proposed in FAQ 06-0021, Revision 1a, is acceptable and that it be incorporated in the next formal revision of NEI 04-02.

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References

- FAQ 06-0021, Revision 0 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) accession number ML070030457)
- FAQ 06-0021, Revision 1a (ADAMS accession number ML071340192)
- NEI 04-02, Revision 1 (ADAMS accession number ML052590476)
- NFPA 805, 2001 Edition (available through the Public Document Room or NFPA)
- Regulatory Guide 1.205 (ADAMS accession number ML061100174)
- NFPA 805 FAQ Process Document, Rev. 1 (ADAMS accession number ML061660105)

References

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