

December 5, 2014

MEMORANDUM TO: Anthony J. Mendiola, Chief
Licensing Processes Branch
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Joseph J. Holonich, Senior Project Manager */RA/*
Licensing Processes Branch
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF OCTOBER 9, 2014, MEETING ON THE
PROPOSED GENERIC LETTER, "MONITORING OF NEUTRON-
ABSORBING MATERIALS IN SPENT FUEL POOLS"

On October 9, 2014, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) held a Category 2 public meeting to discuss feedback on the generic letter, "Monitoring of Neutron-Absorbing Materials in Spent Fuel Pools." Specifically, the meeting was held to discuss how to clearly communicate the NRC's intention that graded or tiered responses to the generic letter would be acceptable. Information related to the meeting, including the list of attendees, can be found in the Agencywide Document Access and Management System (ADAMS) package ML14301A329.

The NRC staff provided a brief description of the purpose of the generic letter on "Monitoring of Neutron-Absorbing Materials in Spent Fuel Pools." The NRC staff stated that it had always been the intention to accept graded or tiered responses to the generic letter. However, based on feedback received from industry stakeholders during the public comment period and the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, it became apparent that this intention was not being clearly communicated. The NRC staff identified several potential clarifications that would cover about a third of the responses. The NRC staff indicated that providing further clarification was going to take more effort.

The industry, through Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), emphasized that there should be recognition that many licensees have already addressed this issue and, in many cases, have already provided the information being requested by the NRC staff. NEI also stated that the industry believed that since the metallic neutron-absorbing materials—Boral, Metamic, etc.—have not demonstrated degradation that was much more than cosmetic, licensees crediting these materials should not be burdened with providing the same level of detail as licensees crediting more susceptible materials.

CONTACT: Joseph H. Holonich, DPR/PLPB
(301) 415-7297

There were no members of the public in attendance or participating via the provided conference call avenue.

During the open discussion that followed the initial statements, the NRC staff and NEI agreed that additional clarification was necessary in the generic letter. In particular, the NRC staff expectations for what constitutes an acceptable response from specific categories of licensees needs to be better defined.

The following action items were identified at the meeting.

- 1) NRC staff will develop revised wording for the generic letter that provides greater clarity on what the NRC staff considers to be an adequate response to the generic letter, as described during the discussion of this meeting.
- 2) One last public meeting will be scheduled to provide stakeholders an opportunity to discuss proposed wording that adequately describes the tiers of responses that would be acceptable to the NRC staff.

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CUMMINGS, Kristopher kwc@nei.org

ADAMS ACCESSION NO.: ML14268A182 (Meeting Notice); ML14301A329 (Meeting Package); ML14301A334 (Meeting Summary) *concurred via email NRR-106

OFFICE	DPR/PLPB/PM	DPR/PLPB/LA*	DPR/DSS/BC	DPR/PLPB/BC	DPR/PLPB/PM
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