

**PLEASE RESPOND BY:  
January 17, 2017**

December 29, 2016

COMSECY-16-0030

MEMORANDUM TO: Chairman Burns  
Commissioner Svinicki  
Commissioner Baran

FROM: Michael R. Johnson */RA/*  
Deputy Executive Director for Reactor  
and Preparedness Programs  
Office of the Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR REVISION TO CERTAIN FUKUSHIMA-  
RELATED TASKINGS

This memorandum requests Commission approval to close or revise four work item tracking system (WITS) tasks related to the lessons learned from the Fukushima Dai-Ichi event: WITS 201200014, WITS 201200015, WITS 201200016, and WITS 201200017. These tasks were linked to Commission direction in the staff requirements memorandum (SRM) dated December 15, 2011, associated with SECY-11-0137, "Prioritization of Recommended Actions To Be Taken in Response to Fukushima Lessons Learned," dated October 3, 2011. In this SRM, the Commission directed the staff to consult with the Commission via notation vote papers before issuing any orders that would lead to a change in the design basis of licensed plants.

This direction resulted in four taskings for the staff to provide notation vote papers associated with Near-Term Task Force Recommendations 2.1 and 2.3 related to seismic and flooding hazard reevaluations and walkdowns, respectively. These tasks specifically reference requesting Commission approval of orders to modify operating reactor licenses once staff has engaged stakeholders and established the requisite technical basis and acceptance criteria. All four tasks are due March 12, 2017.

This approach to the tasking for Recommendations 2.1 and 2.3 was developed in early 2012 at the time the requests for information under Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Section 50.54(f) (referred to as the 10 CFR 50.54(f) letter) were being proposed. At the time, the staff envisioned that changes to numerous plants' licensing bases through orders might be necessary. The staff has completed multiple actions in response to the Fukushima Dai-Ichi event, as reported to the Commission during the staff's periodic updates (e.g., SECY-16-0043, "Ninth 6-Month Status Update on Response to Lessons Learned from Japan's March 11, 2011, Great Tōhoku Earthquake and Subsequent Tsunami," dated April 22, 2016 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML16054A255), as well as monthly status updates provided by memorandum). As the staff has completed actions and

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received Commission approval for alternate approaches to completing the hazard reevaluations, the staff has determined that it is appropriate to adjust these four broad-scope tasks. Additional detail on each of these tasks is presented below.

#### WITS 201200016 and 201200017

These tasks relate to the seismic and flooding walkdowns included in Recommendation 2.3.

As discussed in SECY-16-0043, the operating reactor fleet completed the plant walkdowns (except for those portions of the seismic walkdowns that were not accessible at power) and submitted their walkdown reports by November 2012. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff completed staff assessments of the walkdown reports by July 2014. The NRC staff assessments determined that the plant walkdowns consistently followed the intent of the NRC-endorsed guidance, thereby verifying that the walkdowns met the objectives of the 10 CFR 50.54(f) letter. Subsequently, all seismic walkdowns of inaccessible items were completed. The NRC staff documented the reviews of the inaccessible walkdown items in a staff memorandum dated September 25, 2015 (ADAMS Accession No. ML15268A477). All actions to address Recommendation 2.3 are complete, and this recommendation is closed.

Therefore, there is no need for notation vote papers requesting Commission approval of orders related to Recommendation 2.3, as tracked in these tasks.

The staff requests that the Commission approve closure of WITS 201200016 and 201200017.

#### WITS 201200015

This task relates to the reevaluation of flooding hazards at operating reactor sites, as described in Recommendation 2.1. In COMSECY-15-0019, "Closure Plan for the Reevaluation of Flooding Hazards for Operating Nuclear Power Plants," dated June 30, 2015, the staff presented its "Mitigating Strategies and Flooding Hazard Reevaluation Action Plan" for Commission approval. This plan provides for the development of focused evaluations and integrated assessments of plant response to the reevaluated flooding hazard (Phase 1) and a subsequent NRC regulatory evaluation (Phase 2) to assess the need for additional regulatory actions.

Phase 1 will be complete by the end of 2018, by which time licensees are expected to submit all focused evaluations and integrated assessments, as applicable. As part of Phase 2, if a plant-specific backfit evaluation is initiated, the staff will use the established processes for imposing additional requirements on licensees, as described in Management Directive 8.4, "Management of Facility-Specific Backfitting and Information Collection." The Commission approved this action plan in its staff requirements memorandum to COMSECY-15-0019 dated July 28, 2015, and the staff is implementing the action plan. Consistent with Commission direction in SRM-SECY-11-0137, the staff would consult with the Commission via notation vote papers before issuing any orders that would lead to a change in the design basis of licensed plants.

Therefore, the staff requests that the Commission approve an extension of WITS 20120015 to December 16, 2019, to enable the staff to complete Phase 2 for all affected facilities and submit any necessary notation vote papers.

WITS 201200014

This task relates to the reevaluation of seismic hazards at operating reactor sites, as described in Recommendation 2.1. The staff has completed its assessment and closed the seismic-related aspects of Recommendation 2.1 for 20 sites as of November 30, 2016. The reevaluated seismic hazard for these sites was either bounded by the site's current design bases or the site had a limited high frequency exceedance. In addition, the staff has completed its assessment of the reevaluated seismic hazard for all sites.

On October 27, 2015, the NRC staff issued a letter providing its final determination of which licensees for which Recommendation 2.1 remains open will need to perform a seismic probabilistic risk assessment (SPRA) (ADAMS Accession No. ML15194A015). This letter established a staggered submittal schedule for these assessments. There are currently 20 sites that will perform an SPRA. The first SPRAs are due to the NRC in March 2017 and all SPRAs will be received by December 2019. The remaining 32 sites will perform limited-scope evaluations—that is, a high frequency evaluation, low frequency evaluation, spent fuel pool evaluation, or a combination thereof.

While the staff did not specifically submit a seismic action plan to the Commission for approval as it did for flooding, it expects to take an analogous approach and follow established processes to impose any necessary additional requirements. As with the flooding reevaluation, consistent with Commission direction in SRM-SECY-11-0137, the staff would consult with the Commission via notation vote papers before issuing any orders that would lead to a change in the design basis of licensed plants.

Therefore, the staff requests that the Commission approve an extension of WITS 20120014 to December 14, 2020, to enable the staff to complete reviews of SPRAs for all affected facilities and submit any necessary notation vote papers.

Based on the justifications provided above, the staff requests that the Commission approve the closure of WITS 201200016 and WITS 201200017, as well as the requested schedule adjustments for WITS 201200014 and WITS 201200015.

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WITS 201200014

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While the staff did not specifically submit a seismic action plan to the Commission for approval as it did for flooding, it expects to take an analogous approach and follow established processes to impose any necessary additional requirements. As with the flooding reevaluation, consistent with Commission direction in SRM-SECY-11-0137, the staff would consult with the Commission via notation vote papers before issuing any orders that would lead to a change in the design basis of licensed plants.

Therefore, the staff requests that the Commission approve an extension of WITS 20120014 to December 14, 2020, to enable the staff to complete reviews of SPRAs for all affected facilities and submit any necessary notation vote papers.

Based on the justifications provided above, the staff requests that the Commission approve the closure of WITS 201200016 and WITS 201200017, as well as the requested schedule adjustments for WITS 201200014 and WITS 201200015.

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**EDO-004** \*by e-mail

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