



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

January 23, 2013

All Power Reactor Licensees and  
Holders of Construction Permits in  
Active or Deferred Status

SUBJECT: FOLLOW-UP LETTER ON TECHNICAL ISSUES FOR RESOLUTION  
REGARDING LICENSEE COMMUNICATION SUBMITTALS ASSOCIATED  
WITH NEAR-TERM TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATION 9.3 (TAC NO.  
ME7951)

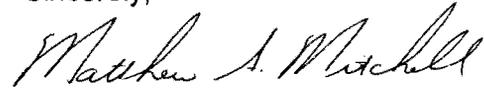
This letter is being issued to identify technical issues for resolution regarding licensee communication submittals associated with Near-Term Task Force (NTTF), Recommendation 9.3. On March 12, 2012, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff issued a letter (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML12053A340), in accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 50, Section 50.54(f), requesting further information to support the evaluation of the NRC staff recommendations regarding NTTF, Recommendation 9.3. The licensees submitted responses to the request for information regarding communications on or around October 31, 2012.

Based on its initial review, the NRC staff identified eight generic technical issues needing resolution to determine the licensee's communications capability regarding a multi-unit station blackout event. On January 3, 2013, the NRC staff held a public meeting (ADAMS Accession No. ML13016A111) with the Nuclear Energy Institute and industry representatives to discuss the licensees' submittals and presented the eight generic technical issues needing resolution. The NRC staff identified these eight generic issues, as described in the Enclosure, to provide licensees with an opportunity to supplement the original submittals to facilitate the staff's review. A response to these generic issues within 30 days from the date of this letter would facilitate a more efficient review of the licensee communication submittals related to NTTF Recommendation 9.3. Please respond to these generic issues in lieu of any information request that was previously sent from the NRC staff to select licensees.

This request contains information collection requirements that are subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.). The information collection was approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), approval number 3150-0211, which expires January 31, 2013, and has been submitted to OMB for renewal. The burden for submission of information regarding emergency plan communications is estimated to average 150 hours per plant. The NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a request for information or an information collection requirement unless the requesting document displays a currently valid OMB control number.

If you have any questions related to the generic issues as addressed in the Enclosure, please contact Brian Harris by telephone at 301-415-2277 or by e-mail at [brian.harris2@nrc.gov](mailto:brian.harris2@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew A. Mitchell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "M".

Matthew A. Mitchell, Branch Chief  
Project Management Branch  
Japan Lessons Learned Directorate  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:  
Technical Issues for Resolution

cc: Listserv

## **TIER 1 NEAR-TERM TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATION 9.3 COMMUNICATIONS TECHNICAL ISSUES FOR RESOLUTION**

### **Background**

On March 12, 2012, the NRC staff issued a letter entitled, "Request for Information Pursuant to Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations 50.54(f) Regarding Recommendations 2.1, 2.3, and 9.3, of the Near-Term Task Force Review of Insights from the Fukushima Dai-ichi Accident." In part, the request for information asked that licensees assess their current communications systems and equipment during a large scale natural event and loss of all alternating current power. On October 31, 2012, licensees responded to the staff's request for information regarding communications. Upon the staff's review of the licensee's communications submittals, the staff has identified generic technical issues which need to be resolved in order for the staff to complete its review.

### **Generic Technical Issue 1**

The staff identified that licensees need to discuss how the power for the equipment analyzed is expected to be available, and how the planned communications enhancements are expected to be maintained. The following areas were identified:

- A. A detailed description of how power will be maintained for (1) planned or potential enhancements to the communication links and (2) existing equipment analyzed to be available.
  - 1. The number of replacement batteries expected to be needed for a 24-hour duration, per the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) 12-01 "Guideline for Assessing Beyond Design Basis Accident Response Staffing and Communications Capabilities".
  - 2. Generator availability to charge batteries without offsite equipment for a duration of 24 hours.
  - 3. A description of how ancillary equipment supports operations for a 24-hour duration (e.g., adequacy of fuel supplies for the generators; and the minimum number of battery chargers expected to be necessary).

### **Generic Technical Issue 2**

The use and function of the planned enhancements for the improvement of communications.

- A. A description of the use of the planned enhancements.

Enclosure

1. A discussion of whether each planned enhancement identified is only to be used for maintaining the communication link identified, or if it is expected to be shared among other communication links.
2. A general description of the planned enhancement and how the equipment will be integrated.
3. The title and general description of the procedure that will be developed and used by plant personnel to describe protocols for shared usage of communication capabilities.

### **Generic Technical Issue 3**

The protection of the new equipment purchased as a planned enhancement as well as the protection of existing communications equipment analyzed as being available.

- A. A discussion of how the existing equipment analyzed to be available and enhancements to these communication links as well as associated ancillary equipment will be stored in a manner that is protective from a large scale natural event.
  1. A description of pre-identified areas that are considered protective for existing equipment and whether new equipment will be stored in a similar location. The title and brief description of a procedure for new communications equipment storage is acceptable, if this procedure is planned to be developed in the future; or a statement that this will be completed in alignment with NRC order EA-12-049.
  2. Equipment stored offsite, should have an analysis of duration to set-up this equipment for use.
  3. The analysis demonstrates that the existing equipment that is expected to be available will be functional.

### **Generic Technical Issue 4**

The programmatic controls for the use of the new equipment purchased as a planned enhancement.

- A. A description of planned proceduralization and training for the use of these planned enhancements. It is acceptable to provide the title and description of a new procedure for new communications equipment.
  1. A description of any credited manual actions and their procedures.
  2. A description of any maintenance for this equipment, including operability testing.
  3. A description of any periodic inventory checks.

4. A description of planned staff training.

#### **Generic Technical Issue 5**

A discussion on what assumptions are used as part of the Communications Assessment.

- A. A description of the assumptions used for the submitted Communications Assessment Summary, and technical justification for any differences from the assumptions within NEI 12-01, Sections 2.2 "Assumptions Common To Both Assessments" and 2.4 "Assumptions For Communications Assessment".

#### **Generic Technical Issue 6**

How plant personnel will be notified in the event of a large scale natural event that causes a loss of all AC power.

- A. A description and title of the procedure for emergency notification of essentially all plant staff within 30 minutes [If applicable to the licensee Emergency Plan].
- B. A description and title of the procedure for notification of emergency response organization staff (i.e., self-activation) [If applicable].

#### **Generic Technical Issue 7**

How communications will be maintained during the period of final implementation of the communication enhancements.

- A. Identification and description of the interim actions that will be in place to bridge the gap until all final mitigation strategies being proceduralized are implemented. This also includes equipment protection.

#### **Generic Technical Issue 8**

Descriptions are needed regarding how communications will be maintained with the on-site and in-plant response teams and offsite response organizations if their communication links are not expected to be available.

- A. A timeline for when the evaluation for site specific improvements for on-site and in-plant response teams will be completed.
- B. A discussion of the enhancements that are planned for the offsite response organization communication links.

If you have any questions related to the generic issues as addressed in the Enclosure, please contact Brian Harris by telephone at 301-415-2277 or by e-mail at [brian.harris2@nrc.gov](mailto:brian.harris2@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

**/ RA /**

Matthew A. Mitchell, Branch Chief  
Project Management Branch  
Japan Lessons Learned Directorate  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:  
See Attached

cc: Listserv

DISTRIBUTION:  
See next page

ADAMS Accession No: Package: ML13016A111, Letter: ML13010A162, Meeting Summary: ML13010A144

<b>OFFICE</b>	NRR/JLD/PMB	NRR/DORL/LA	NRR/DORL/LPL1-2	NSIR/DPR/DDEP/NRLB	NRR/JLD/PMB
<b>NAME</b>	BHarris	SRohrer	MKhanna	KWilliams	MMitchell
<b>DATE</b>	01/16/13	01/16/13	01/22/13	01/17/13 via email	01/23/13

**OFFICIAL RECORD COPY**

Letter to All Power Reactor Licensees and Holders of Construction Permits in Active or Deferred Status from M. Mitchell dated January 23, 2013

SUBJECT: FOLLOW-UP LETTER ON TECHNICAL ISSUES FOR RESOLUTION REGARDING LICENSEE COMMUNICATION SUBMITTALS ASSOCIATED WITH NEAR-TERM TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATION 9.3 (TAC NO. ME7951)

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RidsNrrPMOysterCreek Resource

RidsNrrPMPaloVerde Resource

RidsNrrPMPerry Resource

RidsNrrPMPointBeach Resource

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