



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

June 20, 2016

Mr. Bryan C. Hanson  
President and Chief Nuclear Officer  
Exelon Generation Company, LLC  
4300 Winfield Road  
Warrenville, IL 60555

SUBJECT: R. E. GINNA NUCLEAR POWER PLANT – STAFF REVIEW OF MITIGATION STRATEGIES ASSESSMENT REPORT OF THE IMPACT OF THE REEVALUATED SEISMIC HAZARD DEVELOPED IN RESPONSE TO THE MARCH 12, 2012, 50.54(f) LETTER

Dear Mr. Hanson:

The purpose of this letter is to provide the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) assessment of the seismic hazard mitigation strategies assessment (MSA), as described in the May 25, 2016, letter (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML16147A148), submitted by R.E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant, LLC, (the licensee) for R.E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant (Ginna). The mitigation strategies assessment confirms that the licensee has adequately addressed the reevaluated seismic hazard within its mitigating strategies for beyond-design-basis external events.

#### BACKGROUND

By letter dated March 12, 2012 (ADAMS Accession No. ML12053A340), the NRC issued a request for information pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), Section 50.54(f) (hereafter referred to as the 50.54(f) letter). The 50.54(f) letter was issued as part of implementing lessons-learned from the accident at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant. Enclosure 1 to the 50.54(f) letter requested licensees reevaluate the seismic hazard using present-day methodologies and guidance. Concurrent with the reevaluation of seismic hazards, the NRC issued Order EA-12-049, "Issuance of Order to Modify Licenses with Regard to Requirements for Mitigation Strategies for Beyond-Design-Basis External Events" (ADAMS Accession No. ML12054A736). The order requires holders of operating power reactor licenses and construction permits issued under 10 CFR Part 50 to develop, implement, and maintain guidance and strategies to maintain or restore core cooling, containment, and spent fuel pool cooling following a beyond-design-basis external event.

By letter dated March 31, 2014 (ADAMS Accession No. ML14099A196), the licensee provided its reevaluated seismic hazard for Ginna in response to the 50.54(f) letter.

On December 10, 2015 (ADAMS Accession No. ML16005A621), the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) submitted Revision 2 to NEI 12-06, including guidance for conducting MSAs using the reevaluated hazard information. The NRC subsequently endorsed NEI 12-06, Revision 2, with

exceptions, clarifications, and additions, in Japan Lessons-Learned Division (JLD) interim staff guidance (ISG) JLD-ISG-2012-01, Revision 1, "Compliance with Order EA-12-049, Order Modifying Licenses with Regard to Requirements for Mitigation Strategies for Beyond-Design-Basis External Events" (ADAMS Accession No. ML15357A163).

### MITIGATION STRATEGIES ASSESSMENT

By letter dated June 11, 2015 (ADAMS Accession No. ML15153A026), the NRC staff documented its review of the licensee's reevaluated seismic hazard, also referred to as the mitigating strategies seismic hazard information. The staff confirmed the licensee's conclusion that its reevaluated seismic hazard is bounded by the safe shutdown earthquake (SSE) over the 1 to 10 Hertz (Hz) frequency range, except a narrow-band exceedance between 9 and 10 Hz that met acceptance criteria defined in Section 3.2.1.2 of EPRI Report 1025287, "Seismic Evaluation Guidance: Screening, Prioritization and Implementation Details (SPID) for the Resolution of Fukushima Near-Term Task Force Recommendation 2.1: Seismic." The staff also confirmed the Ground Motion Response Spectra (GMRS) exceeds the SSE above 10 Hz, meriting a high frequency confirmation. In addition, the staff concluded that the GMRS determined by the licensee adequately characterizes the reevaluated seismic hazard for the Ginna site.

By letter dated December 4, 2015 (ADAMS Accession No. ML15338A003), the licensee submitted a High Frequency Confirmation Report for Ginna. By letter dated February 18, 2016 (ADAMS Accession No. ML15364A544), the NRC staff confirmed the Ginna GMRS exceedance above the current design-basis is on the order of 10 percent or less of the area under the SSE curve over the frequency range of exceedance and met the criterion described in Section 3.1.2, "Limited High Frequency Exceedance Screening," in Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) Report 3002004396. The EPRI report concluded, and the staff agreed, that these types of minor exceedances over limited frequency ranges do not represent a significant high frequency concern. Therefore, the methodology used by the licensee is appropriate to disposition the GMRS exceedance above the current design basis.

The licensee stated that the Ginna MSA was performed consistent with NEI 12-06, Revision 2. Appendix H of NEI 12-06, Revision 2, describes acceptable methods for demonstrating that the reevaluated seismic hazard is addressed within the Ginna mitigation strategies for beyond-design-basis external events. The NRC staff confirmed that the licensee's seismic hazard MSA is consistent with the guidance in Appendix H.4.2 of NEI 12-06, Revision 2, as endorsed, by JLD-ISG-2012-01, Revision 1. Therefore, the methodology used by the licensee is appropriate to perform an assessment of the mitigation strategies that addresses the reevaluated seismic hazard.

The NRC staff has reviewed the seismic hazard MSA for Ginna. The NRC staff concludes that sufficient information has been provided to demonstrate that the licensee's plans for the development and implementation of guidance and strategies under Order EA-12-049 appropriately address the reevaluated seismic hazard information stemming from the 50.54(f) letter.

B. Hanson

- 3 -

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-3041 or via e-mail at Stephen.Wyman@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SW', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Stephen Wyman, Project Manager  
Hazards Management Branch  
Japan Lessons-Learned Division  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-244

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B. Hanson

- 3 -

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-3041 or via e-mail at Stephen.Wyman@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

**/RA**

Stephen Wyman, Project Manager  
Hazards Management Branch  
Japan Lessons-Learned Division  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-244

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ADAMS Accession No. ML16166A294

\* via e-mail

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