On July 18, 2020 DNV GL published a report titled “McMicken Battery Energy Storage System Event – Technical Analysis and Recommendations”. The report presented an analysis conducted by DNV GL on behalf of Arizona Public Service (APS) regarding the investigation into a thermal event and subsequent explosion that occurred at the APS McMicken Battery Energy Storage facility.

The DNV GL Report contained some inaccuracies with respect to the Underwriters Laboratories Standards development process, as well as the scope of referenced UL Standards. The attached executive summary recaps a full response from Underwriters Laboratories, the nonprofit organization responsible for the development and maintenance of UL Standards. The attached also provides an overview of energy storage safety from UL, the testing, inspection, and certification entity responsible for the certification of products to UL and other standards to correct the record regarding the scope of the testing of energy storage products and systems.

Our stewardship of the public’s trust in Underwriters Laboratories and UL is of the utmost importance. We expect that these responses will help to clarify information in the DNV GL report. The UL enterprise looks forward to future opportunities for collaboration with all our partners, not only in Underwriters Laboratories’ development and maintenance of standards, but also in UL’s certification of energy storage products and their post-market surveillance.

Sincerely,

George A. Borlase, PhD, P.E.
Director, Standards Programs

Kenneth Boyce, P.E.
Corporate Fellow, William Henry Merrill Society
Principal Engineer Director, Energy & Power Technologies

Underwriters Laboratories
1850 M Street NW, Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20036 USA
E: George.Borlase@ul.org

UL
333 Pfingsten Road
Northbrook, IL 60062-2096 USA
E: Kenneth.P.Boyce@ul.com

Attachment: Executive Summary of the Underwriters Laboratories and UL Responses on Battery Energy Storage System Incidents and Safety