

April 21, 2000

MEMORANDUM TO: William F. Kane, Director  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards  
/RA/  
FROM: Martin J. Virgilio, Chairman  
Steering Group for Risk Informing the Office of Nuclear Material  
Safety and Safeguards  
SUBJECT: NMSS STEERING GROUP

To ensure senior management involvement and effectiveness in communication on matters concerning the application of risk to nuclear materials and waste disposal, a Steering Group has been created within the Office of NMSS. The Steering Group consists of myself as Chairperson, the NMSS Division Directors as members, and management representatives as members from the Office of General Counsel, Regions, NRR, and Research.

The NMSS Steering Group has taken on the following responsibilities:

- Review and assess NMSS progress on initiatives to risk-inform regulatory activities in the nuclear materials and waste safety arenas.
- Provide guidance and coordination on priority, resource allocation, and schedule necessary to implement NMSS risk-informed activities.
- Resolve policy issues identified in the course of accomplishing implementation plan activities which do not require Executive Committee or Commission approval, and raising policy issues requiring such approval, with recommendations, to the inter-office PRA Steering Committee.
- Identify new risk-informed activities to be included in the RIR-IP and NMSS operating plan.

The Steering Group will periodically meet with the Risk Task Group to provide guidance and direction on NMSS risk-informed activities. The Risk Task Group will continue to act as the Office's focal point for all risk-informed, performance based regulatory initiatives, to implement the actions outlined in SECY-99-100 [A Framework for Risk-Informed Regulation in the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards].

The Steering Group held their first meeting on April 13, 2000. A list of participants is attached (attachment 1). The following two items were addressed :

- (1) the function and role of the Steering Group, as described above and in a proposed charter, and
- (2) the agenda for the upcoming April 25-26 NRC/Public Workshop on Prioritizing Nuclear Materials Regulatory Applications for New Risk-Informed Approaches.

Under item (1), a revised charter has been developed (attachment 2) that reflects comments received from participants. The charter will help keep in focus the Steering Group's responsibilities. Item (2) was addressed by Francis (Chip) Cameron from OGC. Chip will facilitate the upcoming public workshop and has contacted a broad spectrum of representatives to participate in the workshop discussions. A number of contacts have been added to the list based on the meeting discussion. The attached (attachment 3) workshop agenda reflects comments received during the Steering Group meeting. The Steering Group plans to meet again soon after the upcoming public Workshop, to assess the status of ongoing risk-informed regulatory programs, and the need for future initiatives.

Attachment 1: Steering Group Participants  
Attachment 2: Charter of the Steering Group  
Attachment 3: Workshop Agenda

cc: W. Travers, EDO  
F. Miraglia, EDO  
C. Paperiello EDO  
A. Thadani, RES  
S. Collins, NRR

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Attachment 1: Steering Group Participants

Attachment 2: Charter of the Steering Group

Attachment 3: Workshop Agenda

cc: W. Travers, EDO  
F. Miraglia, EDO  
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A. Thadani, RES  
S. Collins, NRR

**DISTRIBUTION:**

Central File J. Greeves, NMSS J. Linehan, NMSS B. Brach, NMSS  
D. Cool NMSS M. Weber, NMSS B. Mallett, RII G. Holahan, NRR  
T. King, RES J. Gray, OGC F. Cameron, OGC J. Flack, NMSS  
S. Rosenberg, NMSS C. Lui, NMSS D. Damon, NMSS J. Smith, NMSS  
NMSS R/F NMSS DIR OFC R/F  
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**\*SEE PREVIOUS CONCURRENCE**

<b>OFC</b>	<b>NMSS</b>		<b>NMSS</b>								
<b>NAME</b>	<b>JHFlack/SK</b>		<b>MJVirgilo</b>								
<b>DATE</b>	<b>04/21/00</b>		<b>04/21/0</b>								

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Participants

April 13, 2000 NMSS Steering Group for Risk Informing The Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

M. Virgilio, NMSS (Chair)

J. Greeves, NMSS

W. Hodges, NMSS

J. Piccone, NMSS

M. Weber, NMSS

J. Murphy, RES

G. Holahan, NRR

F. Cameron, OGC

J. Flack, NMSS

S. Rosenberg, NMSS

C. Lui, NMSS

**CHARTER OF THE STEERING GROUP FOR RISK INFORMING**  
**THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR MATERIAL SAFETY AND SAFEGUARDS**

The Steering Group for Risk Informing the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards has been created to align and provide senior management oversight of the NMSS initiative to risk-inform the regulatory process. The Steering group has the following responsibilities:

- Review and assess NMSS progress on initiatives to risk-inform regulatory activities in the nuclear materials and waste safety arenas
- Provide guidance and coordination on priority, resource allocation, and schedule necessary to implement NMSS risk-informed activities,
- Resolve policy issues identified in the course of accomplishing implementation plan activities which do not require Executive Committee or Commission approval, and raising policy issues requiring such approval, with recommendations, to the inter-office PRA Steering Committee.
- Identify new risk-informed activities to be included in the RIR-IP and NMSS operating plan.

The Steering Group will consist of the NMSS Deputy Director as Chairperson, the NMSS Division Directors as members, and management representatives as members from the Office of General Counsel, Regions, NRR, and Research .

The Steering Group will meet no less often than Quarterly or as appropriate. The Steering Group should plan to meet with the Risk Assessment and Management Task Group once every two months. Additional meetings can be scheduled and held at the request of any member.

Current Group Members:

Group Leader: Marty Virgilio DD/NMSS

Other Members:

Mike Weber, NMSS  
John Greeves, NMSS  
Thomas King, RES

Don Cool, NMSS  
John Linehan, PMDA  
Joe Grey, OGC

Bill Brach, NMSS  
Gary Holahan, NRR  
Bruce Mallett, RII

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION - PUBLIC WORKSHOP:  
THE USE OF RISK INFORMATION IN REGULATING THE USE OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS  
April 25 and 26, 2000  
Embassy Suites Hotel, Chevy Chase Rooms 1 and 2, 4300 Military Road NW, Washington D.C.  
20015 (near the Friendship Heights Red Line Metro); 202-362-9300

Tuesday, April 25, 2000

9:00 A.M.      **Welcome, Groundrules, agenda overview, participant introductions**

F.X. Cameron, Facilitator

**Session 1**

9:15 a.m.      **Overview of NRC efforts to use risk information and insights in the materials regulatory process**

Martin J. Virgilio, Deputy Director, Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards, NRC

Participant questions

9:45 a.m.      **Perspectives on the use of a risk informed approach in the radioactive materials program area**

Participant discussion

10:30 a.m.      **BREAK**

10:45 a.m.      **Where would risk insights provide value in the regulation of the use of radioactive materials and waste disposal: What are the screening criteria that should be used to identify these areas?**

Participant discussion

12:00 p.m.      **LUNCH**

1:15 p.m.      **Discussion of the application of the criteria to various categories of nuclear materials and waste disposal activities**

Participant discussion

2:15 p.m.      **What potentially new risk-informed regulatory applications in the nuclear materials and waste disposal area have merit?**

3:00 p.m.      **BREAK**

## **Session 2**

3:15 p.m.      **The potential use of safety goals in materials regulation: Lessons from the development of the reactor safety goal and safety philosophy**

Gary Holahan, Director, Division of Systems Safety and Analysis, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, NRC

Participant questions

4:00 p.m.      **What is a “safety goal”? What would be the role of a safety goal(s) in the nuclear materials program?**

Participant discussion

5:00 p.m.      Adjourn

Wednesday, April 26, 2000

8:30 a.m.      **Agenda preview**

F.X. Cameron, Facilitator

8:45 a.m.      **How can we use the existing regulatory framework and underlying safety philosophy in constructing a safety goal for the materials program area?**

Participant discussion

9:45 a.m.      **BREAK**

10:15 a.m.      **What should be considered in developing a safety goal for the materials area, for example, data needs, resources, harmonization with other agencies, separate versus a single goal, prioritization**

Participant discussion

11:15 a.m.      **Discussion of the future process for the development of a safety goal(s) for the nuclear materials program**

Participant discussion

NOON          **Adjourn**