

May 12, 2000

T. J. Voss, Chair, IEEE SC-7
Westinghouse Safety Management Solutions
P.O. Box 5388
Aiken, SC 29804-5388

Dear Mr. Voss:

In your letter of March 23, 2000, you asked that IEEE NPEC Subcommittee 7 (SC-7) be included as a peer review group for draft Human Factors Engineering guidelines. We would welcome the input of an industry consensus body with broad industry and human factors expertise in the development of our guidance documents.

Documents that are used for guidance typically go through a review process that includes internal and user review, as well as review by the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS), the Committee to Review Generic Requirements (CRGR), and a formal public comment process. In addition, we have incorporated peer review and field testing where appropriate in the development of our documents.

As you noted, there are several documents currently in various stages of development. Most of these are considered to be interim guidance, since our primary human factors guidance document is NUREG-0700, "Guidelines for Control Room Design Reviews". Most recently we published the following five NUREG/CRs that relate to hybrid control rooms:

- NUREG/CR-6633, *Advanced Information System Design: Technical Basis and Human Factors Review Guidance*
- NUREG/CR-6634, *Computer-Based Procedure Systems: Technical Basis and Human Factors Review Guidance*
- NUREG/CR-6635, *Soft Controls: Technical Basis and Human Factors Review Guidance*
- NUREG/CR-6636, *Maintainability of Digital Systems: Technical Basis and Human Factors Review Guidance*
- NUREG/CR-6637, *Human Systems Interface and Plant Modernization Process: Technical Basis and Human Factors Review Guidance*

These have already been peer reviewed and will now be subjected to field testing. While they have been published as interim guidance, they will not become final guidance until they are incorporated in the next revision to NUREG-0700, which we expect to publish in 2001. I am enclosing copies of the five NUREG/CRs. We will consider and resolve any comments you may have when we revise NUREG-0700. Since these have already been published and are awaiting field tests, there is less time pressure. We would expect your comments within three months.

There are a few other guidance documents that are near to completion as NUREG/CRs, that we also plan to incorporate into NUREG-0700 during 2001. Some of these have already gone through a peer review process but we will allow for your review as well. These include the following three draft documents: (1) "Draft Guidance for the Review of Changes to Risk-Important Human Actions," (2) "Draft - Evaluating the Impact of Environmental Factors on Control Room Operator Performance" (based on information in NUREG/CR-5680), and (3) a draft of "Advanced Alarm Systems: Revision of Guidance and Its Technical Basis." Since these documents are currently in the review process, I ask for your comments within two months.

We do have certain schedules to which we must adhere as part of our responsibilities to our users in the regulatory office, so any added review must be factored into our planning. Since your request has come at a time when several documents are in progress, we ask for your timely review.

I note that you state that the comments will be of a "consensual nature." I assume that this means they will not be the views of only one individual, but will be a consensus of the views of individuals with diverse backgrounds. It is our understanding that the subcommittee will stand behind the comments.

If you have any questions, please contact J. Persensky at 301-415-6759 or <jjp2@nrc.gov>.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Jack E. Rosenthal, Chief
Regulatory Effectiveness Assessment
And Human Factors Branch
Division of Systems Analysis and Regulatory Effectiveness
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

Enclosures: As stated

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*See previous concurrence

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