



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

July 7, 2000

MEMORANDUM TO: PRA Steering Committee

FROM: Ashok C. Thadani, Director *A. C. Thadani for*
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

SUBJECT: COMMENTS REQUESTED ON PROPOSED ASME PRA STANDARD,
REV. 12

Attached is a copy of Revision 12 of the proposed standard developed by ASME entitled, "Standard for Probabilistic Risk Assessment for Nuclear Power Plant Applications." This standard provides the requirements for a Level 1 and Level 2 (large early release frequency only) PRA for a plant at full-power considering internal events (excluding fire). Revision 12 was issued by ASME for public comment on June 14, 2000 (60 day comment period).

RES will take the lead to develop an Agency wide set of comments. To help accomplish this, your review of this draft standard is requested. In reviewing this standard, please keep in mind that its main objective is to provide "a level of confidence to the NRC staff regarding the technical quality of a PRA..." and therefore "...result in a more focused technical review of the PRA by the NRC staff and ... make more efficient use of both NRC and industry resources..." (Reference 1). Therefore, your review should focus on the technical quality and completeness of this standard in determining whether it meets this objective. Based on discussion between RES/DRAA and NRR/DSSA staff, and to assist you in your review, attached is a list of criteria that we believe need to be met for staff endorsement of this standard (Attachment 2). Also attached with this standard, for your information and use, are:

- PRA Quality for Use in Regulatory Decision-Making (Attachment 3*)
- Comments submitted by NRC on Revision 10 draft that went out for public review and comment in February 1999 (Attachment 4).
- Comments submitted by NRC during the development of Revision 11 and Revision 12 (Attachment 5).

The standard is organized as follows:

- Chapter 1: Introduction
- Chapter 2: Definitions
- Chapter 3: Risk Assessment Application Process — application process requirements for determining if the technical requirements are necessary and sufficient to permit the use of a PRA in a specific application

* Attachment 3 provides high level acceptance criteria for PRA quality. This document is a draft report which is to be forwarded to the Commission for approval in mid-July.

- Chapter 4: Risk Assessment Technical Requirements — the technical requirements for developing three categories of PRA
- Chapter 5: PRA Configuration Control — requirements for maintaining and updating the PRA so that it reflects the as-built and as-operated plant
- Chapter 6: Peer Review — requirements for a peer review that “verifies” that the above requirements in the standard are properly interpreted and implemented
- Appendix A: Standard Application Guidance

Review of this standard is being performed in conjunction with the review of NEI’s certification process so that the review of these two documents are consistent. In addition, ANS will shortly be issuing their standard for an external events PRA (mid July 2000) at which time we will be requesting your review.

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Drouin, 301-415-6675, email mxd@nrc.gov. Please provide your comments to her (mail stop T10E50) and include an electronic copy, or send your comments via email. Since the review and comment period closes August 14, 2000, we request your individual comments by August 1, 2000, to assemble an integrated NRC response to ASME. An internal meeting has been scheduled for August 4, 2000, 8:30 am to 11:30 pm (conference room T10A1) to discuss NRC comments and resolve any discrepancies.

Reference: Letter to J. Ling, ASME, Associate Executive Director, 2-23-98, from A. Thadani

Attachments: As stated

cc: W. Travers
C. Paperiello
F. Miraglia

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Distribution: DRAA Chron M. Drouin, M. Cunningham, T. King, A. Thadani

* Previously concurred.

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