



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

September 6, 2000

ORGANIZATION: Nuclear Energy Institute

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF PUBLIC MEETING WITH THE NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE (NEI) REGARDING DECOMMISSIONING SPENT FUEL POOL ACCIDENT RISK SEISMIC ISSUES

On August 23, 2000, the NRC staff met with representatives of NEI to discuss seismic issues related to decommissioning spent fuel pool accident risk. The meeting agenda is provided in Enclosure 1. A list of attendees is provided in Enclosure 2.

NRC began the meeting by discussing the events that led up to this meeting, including issuance of the "Draft Final Technical Study of Spent Fuel Pool Accident Risk at Decommissioning Plants" (Accession No. ML003683371), industry comments associated with the study, and the proposed rulemaking plan described in SECY-00-145, "Integrated Rulemaking Plan for Nuclear Power Plant Decommissioning" (Accession No. ML003721626).

Next, NEI presented seismic information related to spent fuel pools and its application to decommissioning plants. A copy of the handouts used by NEI is included in Enclosure 3. NEI presented information comparing seismic hazard curves for nuclear power plants generated by the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) and by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL). The LLNL curves were the basis for the seismic results presented in the Draft Final Technical Study of Spent Fuel Pool Accident Risk at Decommissioning Plants. While the EPRI curves have lower ground motion values than the corresponding LLNL curves, both the staff and industry experts agreed that both curves are equally valid and that the differences are due to the large uncertainties that exist due to the extrapolation of the data. NRC staff stated that both curves would be included in the evaluation of spent fuel pool failure probability, and appropriate consideration will be given to the industry commitment to use the seismic checklist which provides a deterministic assurance of spent fuel pool integrity at ground motions up to 1.2 g spectral acceleration. NEI and the NRC staff also discussed the probability of zircaloy fires given a failure of the spent fuel pool. Currently, the risk study assumed a failure probability of one. The NRC staff agreed that such assumptions need to be properly characterized in the final report.

NEI then discussed the application of the risk study results to rulemaking. NEI stated that the proposed rulemaking plan, as discussed in SECY-00-145, was based on deterministic methods and did not consider reducing requirements based on risk. The NRC staff disagreed. The NRC staff plans to meet with NEI in late September to further discuss decommissioning rulemaking issues.

NEI summarized its views by stating that risk from seismic events at spent fuel pools is acceptably low and that emergency preparedness and insurance requirements could be relaxed shortly after reactor shutdown. NEI questioned why the technical working group report results (and thus requirements for spent fuel pools) should be driven by seismic events larger than those used in the original licensing basis for the plant. NEI requested the NRC staff to be consistent with the use of risk at operating plants. NEI also suggested that the staff look at the risk in terms of the agency's safety goals. NEI stated it would document its views in a letter to the NRC.

The staff indicated that the technical working group report is intended to risk inform the decommissioning rulemaking decisions. In order to accurately present the risk picture, all significant contributors must be included regardless of the operating reactor licensing process. The staff also noted the importance of properly characterizing the role that large uncertainties play in the results.

The NRC staff stated it will carefully consider the NEI comments in its final report. As stated earlier, the NRC staff plans to meet with NEI in late September to further address decommissioning rulemaking issues.



David J. Wrona, Project Manager
Decommissioning Section
Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project No. 689

Enclosures: 1. Agenda
2. Attendees
3. NEI Handout

cc w/encls: See next page

cc:

Mr. Ralph Beedle
Senior Vice President
and Chief Nuclear Officer
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 I Street, NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006-3708

Mr. Alex Marion, Director
Programs
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 I Street, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006-3708

Mr. David Modeen, Director
Engineering
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 I Street, NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006-3708

Mr. Anthony Pietrangelo, Director
Licensing
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 I Street, NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006-3708

Mr. Jim Davis, Director
Operations
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 I Street, NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006-3708

Ms. Lynnette Hendricks, Director
Plant Support
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 I Street, NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006-3708

Mr. H. A. Sepp, Manager
Regulatory and Licensing Engineering
Westinghouse Electric Company
P.O. Box 355
Pittsburgh, PA 15230-0355

Mr. Charles B. Brinkman, Director
Washington Operations
ABB-Combustion Engineering, Inc.
12300 Twinbrook Parkway, Suite 330
Rockville, MD 20852

Mr. Michael Meisner
Maine Yankee Atomic Power Co.
321 Old Ferry Road
Wiscasset, ME 04578-4922

Mr. Paul Blanch
Energy Consultant
135 Hyde Road
West Hartford, CT 06117

New England Coalition on Nuclear
Pollution
P. O. Box 545
Brattleboro, VT 05302

Mr. Ray Shadis
Friends of the Coast
P. O. Box 98
Edgecomb, ME 04556

Mr. David Lochbaum
Union of Concerned Scientists
1616 P St. NW, Suite 310
Washington, DC 20036

Mr. Paul Gunter
Nuclear Information Resource Service
1424 16th St. NW, Suite 404
Washington, DC 20036

Mr. Peter James Atherton
P.O. Box 2337
Washington, DC 20013

Mr. H. G. Brack
Center for Biological Monitoring
P.O. Box 144
Hull's Cove, ME 04644

Ms. Deborah B. Katz
Citizen's Awareness Network
P. O. Box 3023
Charlemont, MA 01339-3023

Mr. Robert Holden
National Congress of American Indians
Suite 200
1301 Connecticut Ave, NW
Washington DC, 20036

DECOMMISSIONING SPENT FUEL POOL
ACCIDENT RISK SEISMIC ISSUES MEETING
August 23, 2000
NRC Headquarters
Rockville, MD

Agenda

1. Introduction - NRC
 2. Objective of the Meeting - NEI
 3. Presentation of Seismic Information and Its Application to Decommissioning Plants - NEI
 4. Discussion of Information - NEI and NRC
 5. Summary of Meeting
- NEI - Key points of their presentation
- NRC - Summation of the staff's understanding of the information

DECOMMISSIONING SPENT FUEL POOL
ACCIDENT RISK SEISMIC ISSUES MEETING

August 23, 2000
NRC Headquarters
Rockville, MD

ATTENDEES

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>
John Zwolinski	NRC/NRR/DLPM
Jack Strosnider	NRC/NRR/DE
Stuart Richards	NRC/NRR/DLPM
John Hannon	NRC/NRR/DSSA
Timothy E. Collins	NRC/NRR/DSSA
George Hubbard	NRC/NRR/DSSA
Michael Masnik	NRC/NRR/DLPM
Phillip Ray	NRC/NRR/DLPM
Bill Huffman	NRC/NRR/DLPM
Mike Ripley	NRC/NRR/DLPM
David Wrona	NRC/NRR/DLPM
Diane Jackson	NRC/NRR/DSSA
Tanya Eaton	NRC/NRR/DSSA
Glenn Kelly	NRC/NRR/DSSA
John Lehning III	NRC/NRR/DSSA
Gareth Parry	NRC/NRR/DSSA
Goutam Bagchi	NRC/NRR/DE
Robert Rothman	NRC/NRR/DE
Med El-Zeftawy	NRC/ACRS
George Mencinsky	NRC/NRR/DRIP
Dan Barss	NRC/NRR/DIPM
Chet Poslusny	NRC/NMSS/SFPO
Sada Pullani	NRC/RES/DET
Ken Karwoski	NRC/RES/DET
Nilesh Chokshi	NRC/RES/DET
Andrew J. Murphy	NRC/RES/DET
Bob Kennedy	Struct. Mech. Consulting
Lynette Hendricks	NEI
Biff Bradley	NEI
Bill Henries	Maine Yankee
Tom O'Hara	Maine Yankee
Altheia Wyche	SERCH Licensing/Bechtel
Millan Straka	NUSIS
Elaine Hiruo	McGraw-Hill Nuclear Publications

Enclosure 2

August 23, 2000 NRC/NEI Meeting

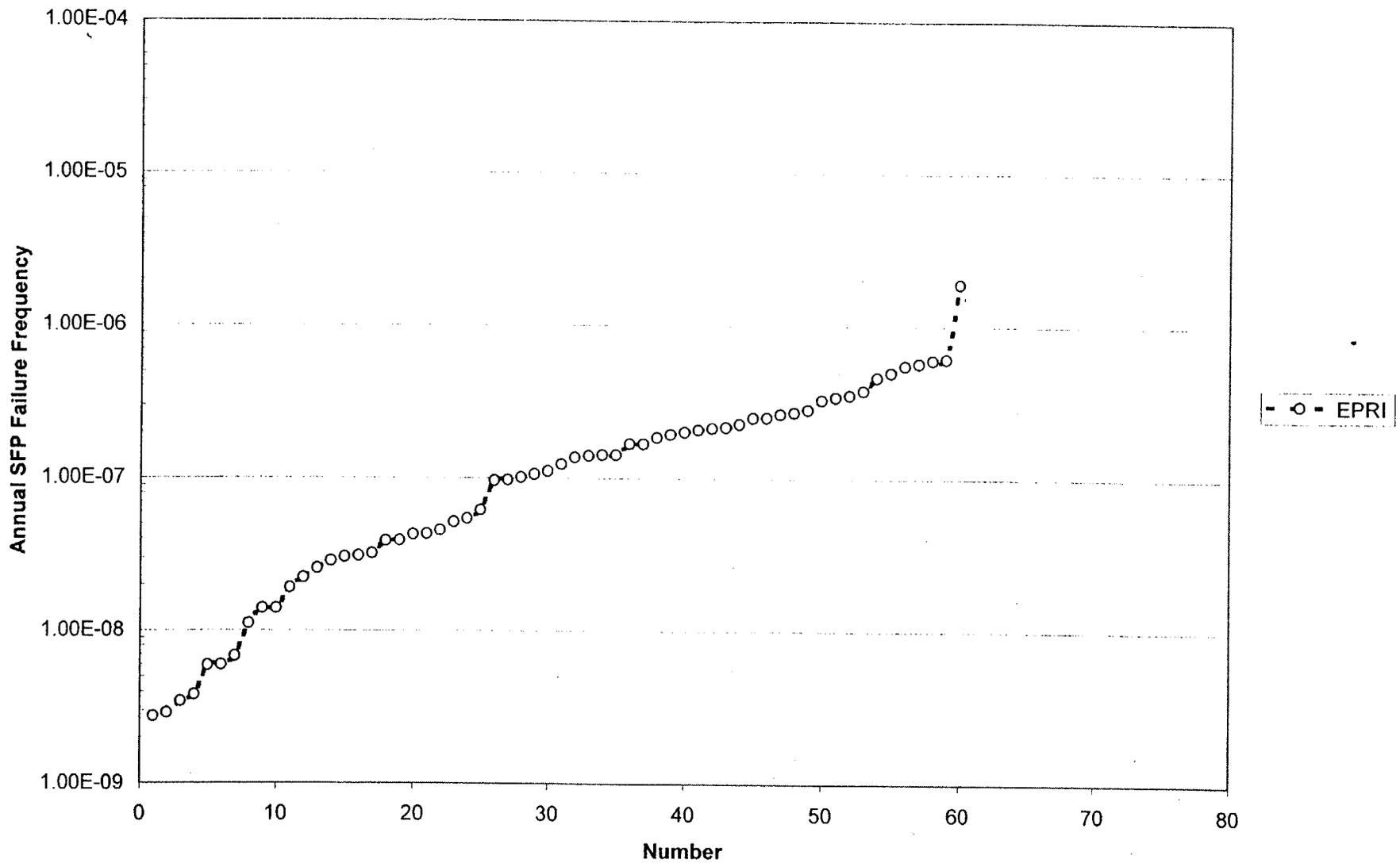
Purpose: To review and discuss the December 1999 and April 2000 submittals with respect to planned risk based regulations for decommissioning plants. In particular, NEI proposes to discuss both deterministic and probabilistic information that when combined in a reasonable manner should lead to the conclusion that Spent Fuel Pools (SFPs) that satisfy the seismic checklist present a negligible risk to the public and the risk based regulation recommendation should be revised to reflect this conclusion.

Additional Information: Figures will be presented which contain estimates of SFP failure frequency based upon the methodology proposed by Kennedy in Appendix 5b of the Draft Report. Figure 4 in the December 1999 submittal is updated in this presentation.

- **Deterministic Information Supporting Low Risk to SFPs from Earthquakes**
- **Probabilistic Information Supporting Low Risk to SFPs from Earthquakes**
- **Decision Making Based on Deterministic and Probabilistic Information**

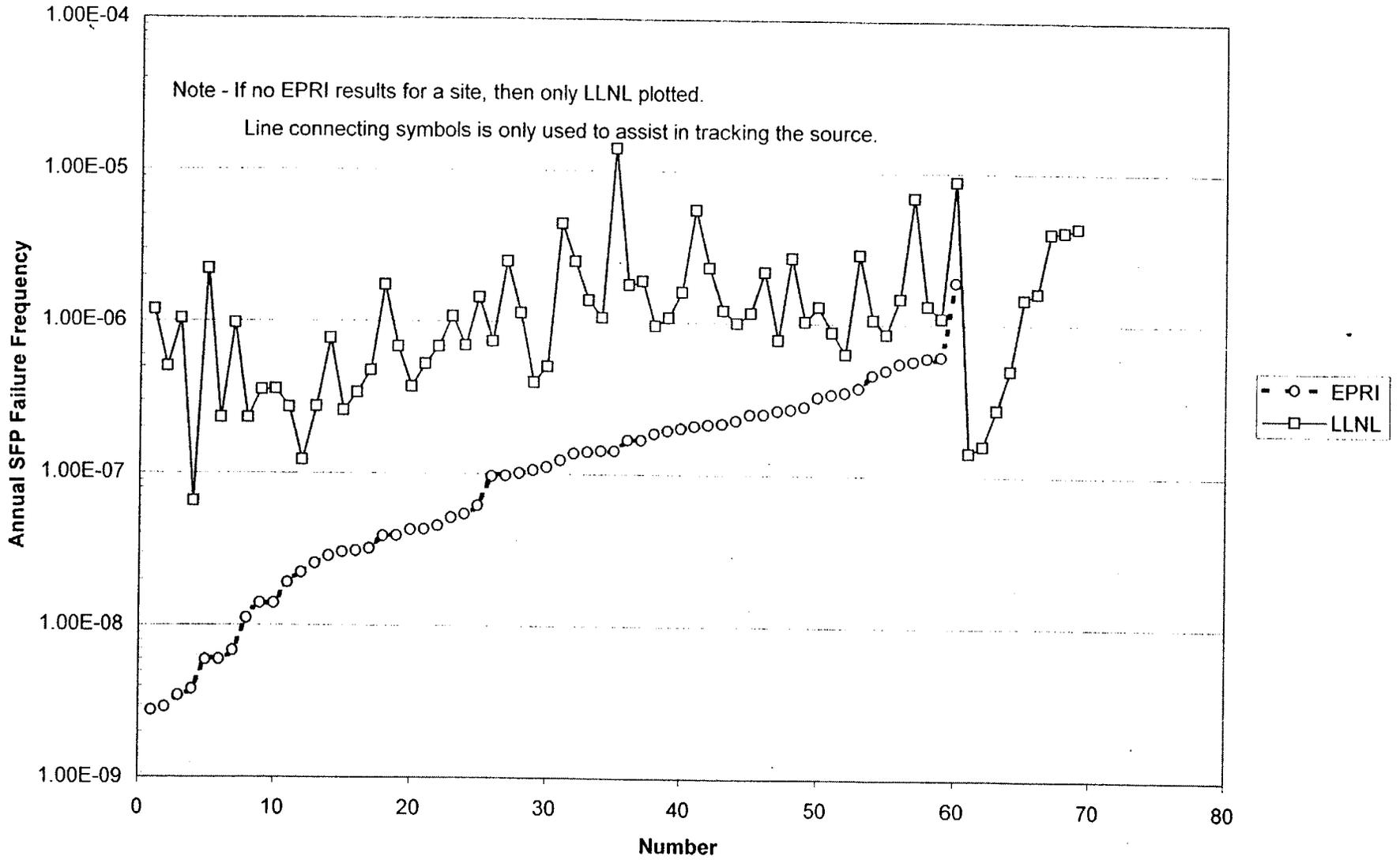
SFP Failure Frequency Based on EPRI

EPRI sorted from lowest to highest risk site



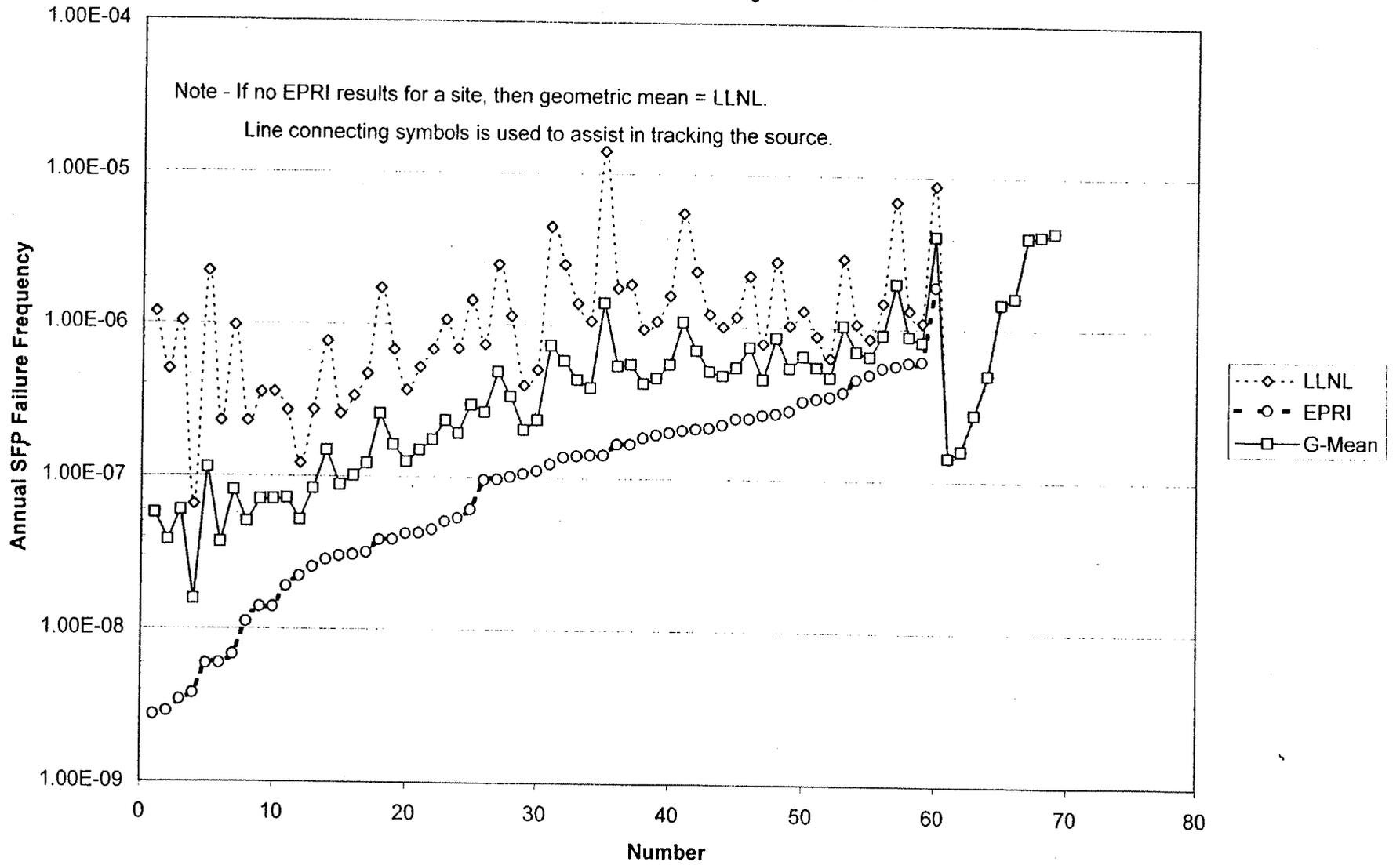
Comparison - LLNL and EPRI

EPRI sorted from lowest to highest risk site



Comparison - LLNL/EPRI/GEOMETRIC MEAN

EPRI sorted from lowest to highest risk site



Geometric Mean (LLNL & EPRI)

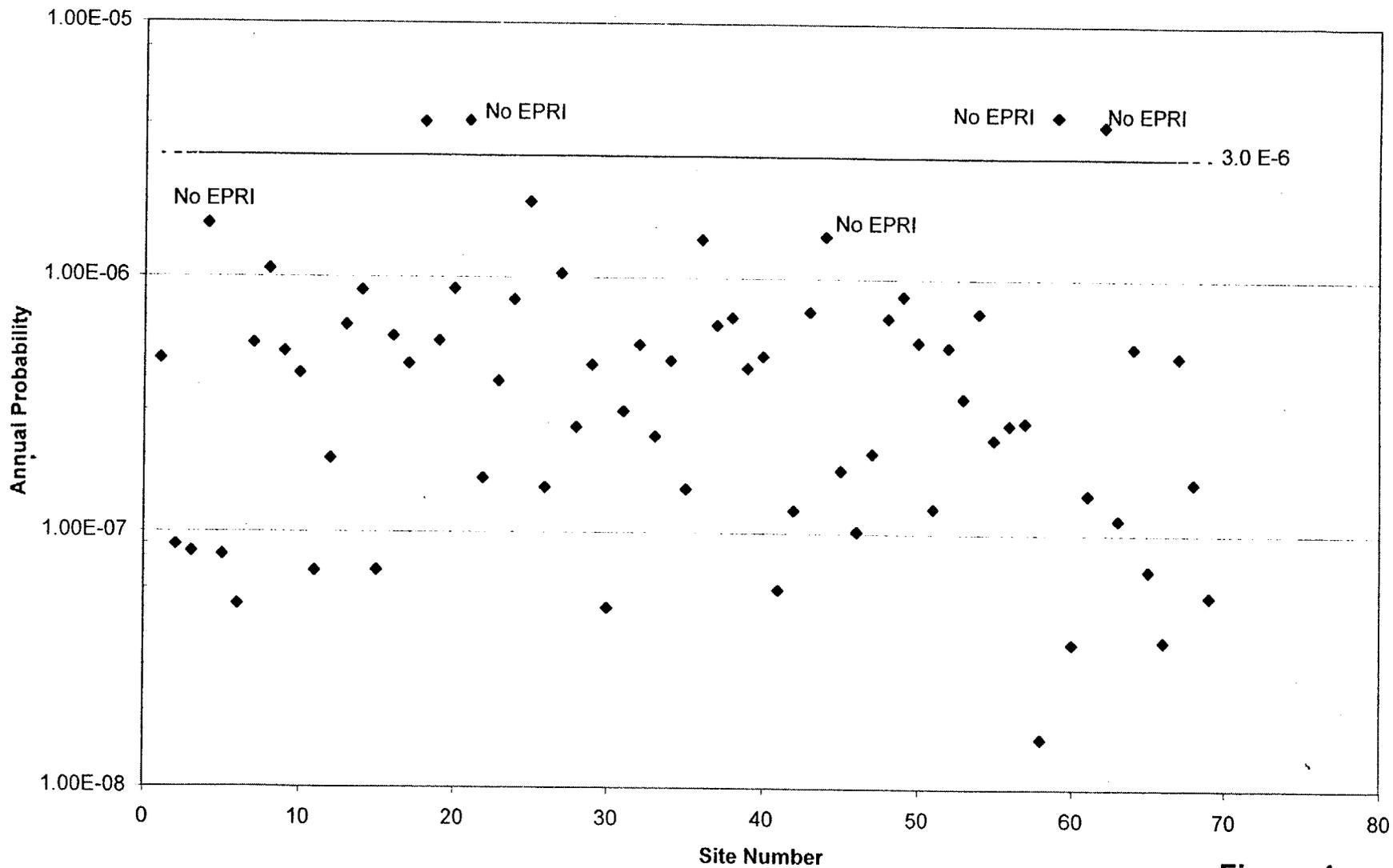
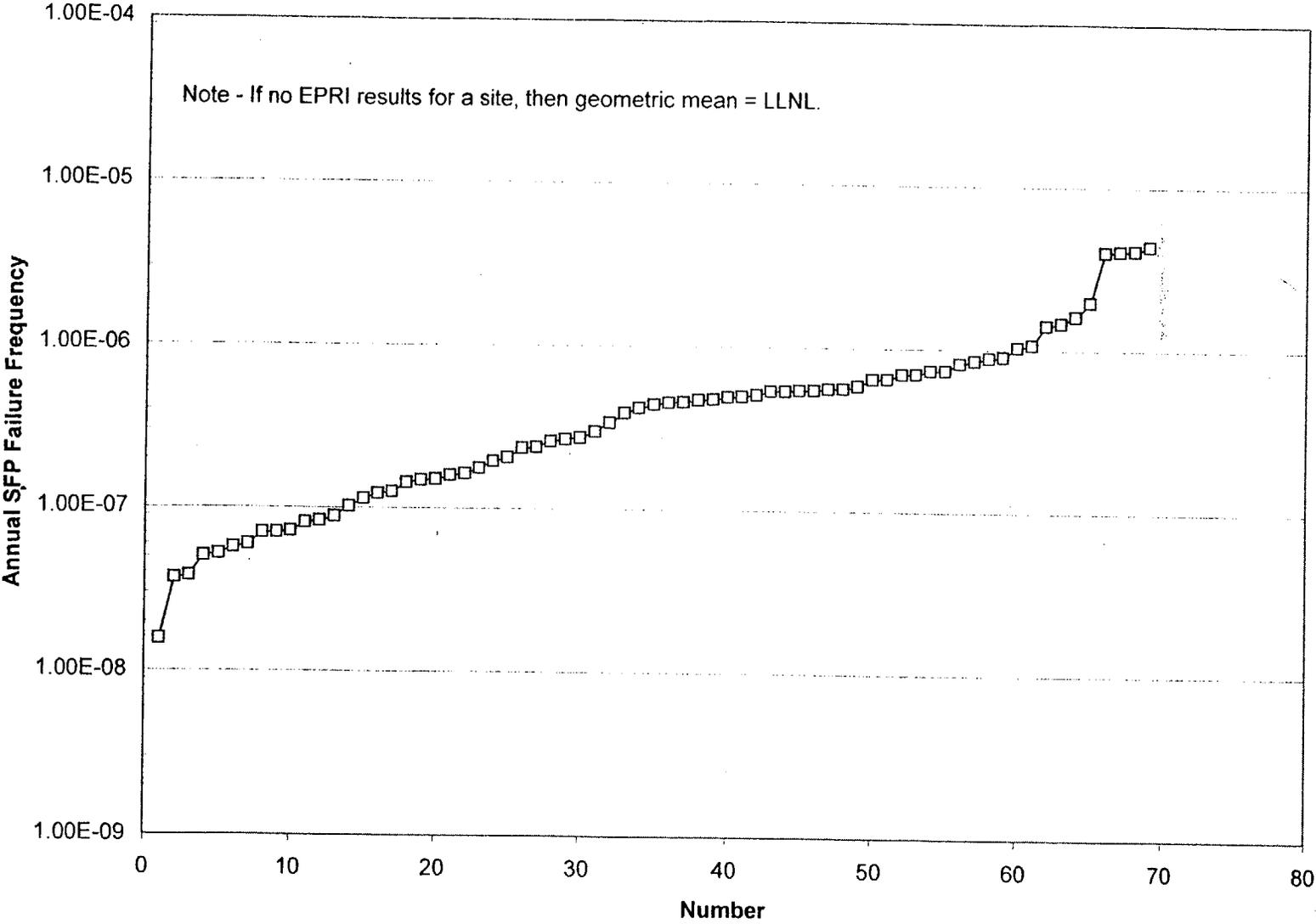


Figure 4

SFP Failure Frequency Based on Geometric Mean of LLNL&EPRI

Geometric Mean sorted from lowest to highest risk site



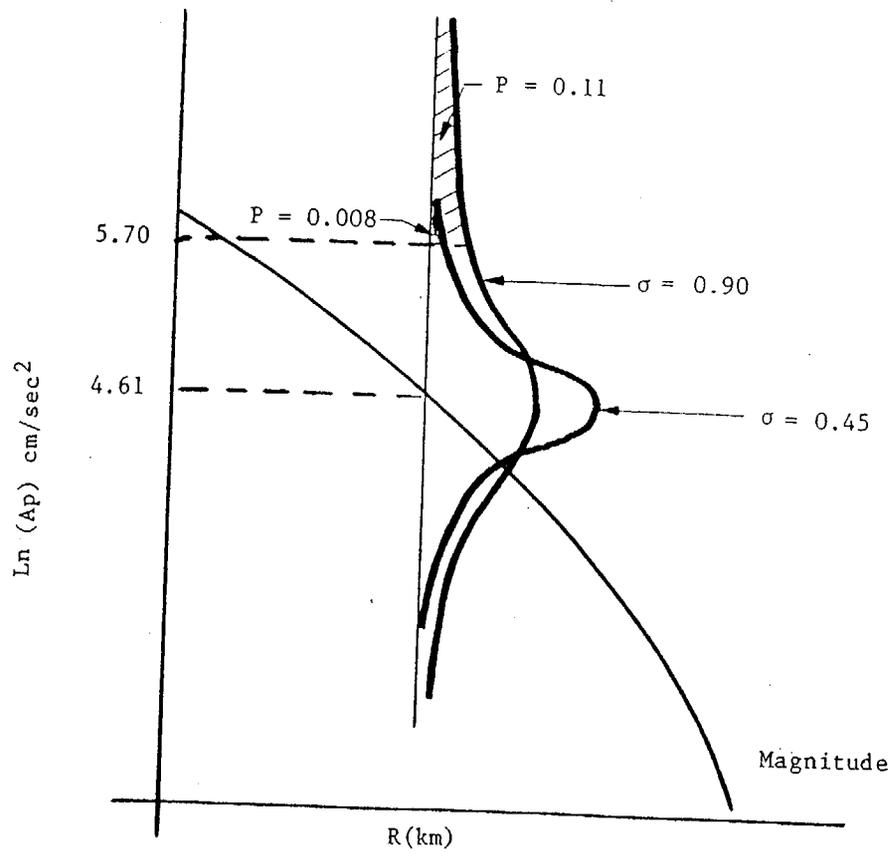


Figure 5-20. Illustration of the Effect of Changes in the Attenuation Model Error Term

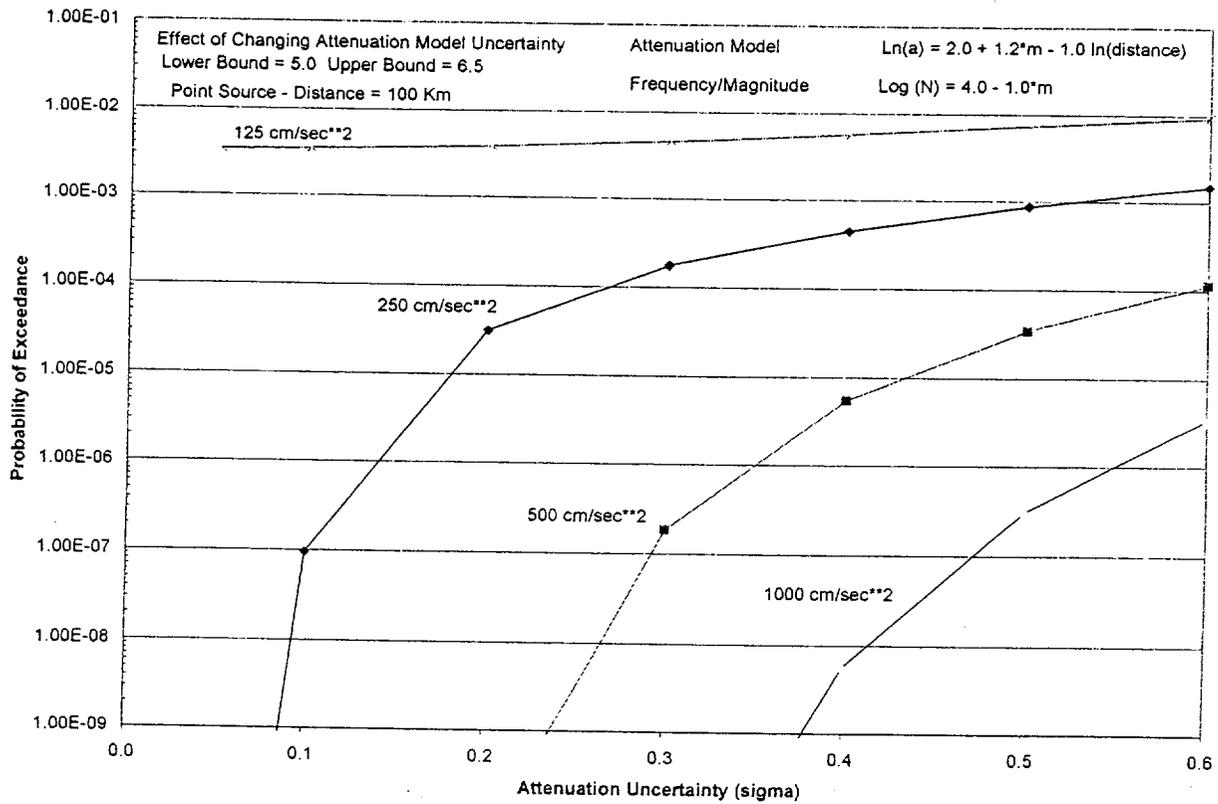


Figure 2 Effect of Attenuation Random Uncertainty on Probability of Exceedance from a Point Source

Comparison of 1989 LLNL, 1992 LLNL and EPRI Estimates of Probability of Exceeding Peak Ground Acceleration per Year versus Acceleration - Pilgrim site

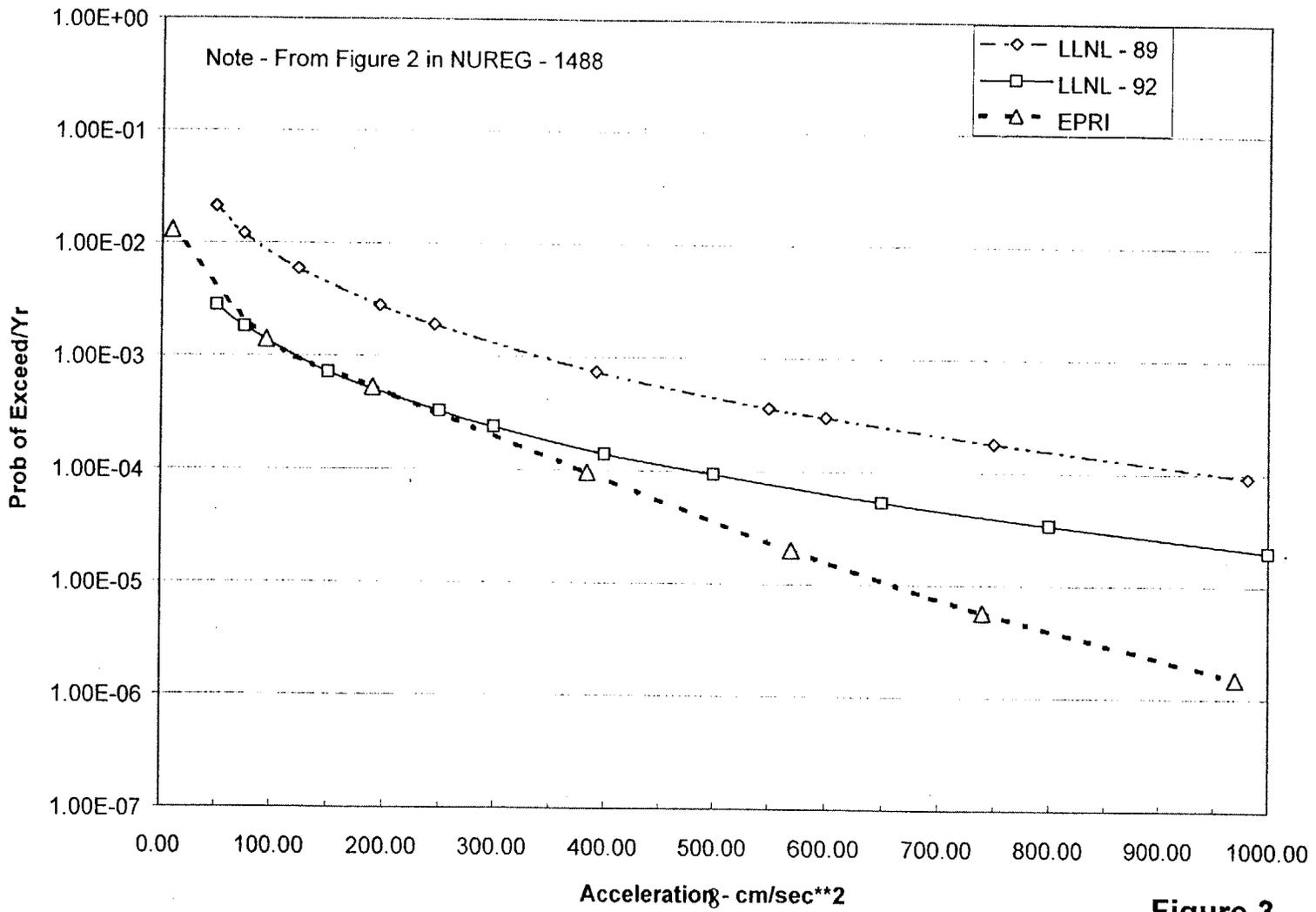


Figure 3

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/RA/

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ACCESSION NUMBER: ML0037

OFFICE	PDIV-D/PM	PDIV-D/LA	DSSA/SPLB	PDIV-D/SC
NAME	DWrona	CJamerson	GHubbard	MMasnik
DATE	9/30/00	9/5/00	9/31/00	9/5/00