

CHARTER FOR THE
JOINT OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION, OFFICE OF NUCLEAR MATERIAL
SAFETY AND SAFEGUARDS AND
OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REGULATORY RESEARCH
FIRE RESEARCH COORDINATING COMMITTEE

BACKGROUND

Past research has provided useful support to past and ongoing regulatory activities. However, additional work is needed to address gaps in current capabilities to perform realistic fire hazard assessments and thereby support increased use of risk-informed and performance-based methods for nuclear fire protection. Through its ongoing program for improving fire hazard assessments, the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) is addressing, for example, circuit failure modes and likelihood, detection and suppression analysis, fire PRA application issues, impact of fires on operator performance, risk significance of main control room and turbine building fires, fire initiation analysis, fire modeling assessment and development, and assessment of experience from major fires.

In addition, the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) and RES are supporting the development of an industry consensus standard on risk-informed and performance-based reactor fire protection (National Fire Protection Association Standard 805). NRR will use the results of the ongoing fire research to support the development of NFPA 805 and the new regulation for risk-informed and performance-based reactor fire protection. NRR has also identified additional areas that are candidates for fire research (e.g., fire protection water supply, reliability and qualification of fire rated cables, Halon 1301 replacement agents) and is planning to issue user needs memoranda to RES in the near future.

To improve coordination between NRR, NMSS and RES, and to help ensure that the ongoing and future fire research activities are appropriately prioritized and will support regulatory activities and decision making, NRR, NMSS and RES have established a joint Fire Research Coordinating Committee. This is the Committee Charter.

COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Chief, Plant Systems Branch
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Chief, Probabilistic Safety Assessment Branch
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Chief, Probabilistic Risk Analysis Branch
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

Chief, Materials Engineering Branch
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

Senior Level Advisor, Probabilistic Risk Analysis Branch
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

Proposed Functional Structure: Fire Research Coordinating Committee Activities

A. Support Research Planning

1. Identify Needs
2. Prioritize Needs
3. Establish Schedule for Deliverables

B. Support Research Execution

1. Discuss Priorities Ensure RES Activities are on Schedule
2. Discuss Resource Needs to Maintain Schedules
3. Management Oversight

~~C. Support Implementation of Research Results~~

- ~~1. Ensure Appropriate Use of Results~~
- ~~2. Assess Use of Results to Ensure Effective RES Efforts~~

C. Provide Interfaces

1. Commission
2. Upper Management
3. ACRS
4. Regions
5. Industry
6. Others

Notes:

- The interface function includes decision making concerning the release of information.
- The above functions should capture all of the activities listed in the initial draft charter. They also go a little further in some areas (e.g., regarding active involvement in making sure that research results are used).