

February 15, 2001

MEMORANDUM TO: William F. Kane, Director
Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards

Samuel J. Collins, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Ashok C. Thadani, Director **/RA/**
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO JANUARY 4, 2001 SRM (M001117B) ON
RISK-INFORMED REGULATION IMPLEMENTATION PLAN
(SECY-00-0213)

To be responsive to the subject SRM, the next update of the Risk-Informed Regulation Implementation Plan (RIRIP) should feature expanded arena chapters on Reactor Safety, Materials Safety, and Waste Safety that describe the staff's progress in establishing priorities among implementation activities, needed resources and tools, critical path items, and items that have cross-cutting dimensions. The safety arena chapters should also describe arena-specific communications plans designed to improve public confidence, including both internal and external communications plans. Within each arena, plans should be described for identifying any missing implementation activities that should be included as part of the agency's comprehensive risk-informed strategy. To support these efforts, RES will provide an overview and coordination function to help ensure consistency across arenas. RES will also take the lead to include a section in the next update that explicitly discusses the agency's plans for implementing the performance-based regulation initiative and its integration with risk-informed regulation.

We are faced with important challenges to improving the RIRIP. I believe that the PRA Steering Committee may well need to be briefed on these challenges and provide appropriate guidance as we look to subsequent versions of the RIRIP. As a first step we will request that the schedule for the next update to the RIRIP be extended until August 2001 to allow use of the operating plan updates in its formulation. We will also be scheduling coordination meetings and meetings of the PRA Steering Committee in the near future.

cc: W. Travers
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