

May 14, 2001

Bradley A. Buckles, Director  
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms  
U.S. Department of the Treasury  
650 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20226

Dear Mr. Buckles:

On behalf of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I wish to thank the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) for the technical briefing provided to NRC staff on November 28, 2000, by Mr. Gerald Haynes and other members of the ATF Chicago and Philadelphia field offices. The ATF staff briefed members of the NRC's Division of Systems Safety and Analysis on the ATF computer-based, fire dynamics analytical techniques. We are in the process of developing computer-based fire dynamic calculation techniques similar to those described by the ATF. These analytical techniques will improve the objectivity and scientific validity of our risk significance determination process. Our initial efforts to develop a methodology, based on the ATF techniques, have been greeted with enthusiasm by our regional inspectors and managers. We sincerely appreciate the spirit of cooperation, the professionalism, and the effort that the ATF has made in assisting the NRC in this matter.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

William D. Travers  
Executive Director for  
Operations

cc: Guy Hummel  
Gerald Haynes

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This correspondence transmits factual information.

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