December 14, 2001

MEMORANDUM TO: Lawrence E. Kokajko, Section Chief
Risk Task Group
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

FROM: Christiana H. Lui, Senior Risk Analyst ***/RA/***
Risk Task Group
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF STAKEHOLDER MEETING TO DISCUSS THE USE OF RISK INFORMATION IN THE NUCLEAR MATERIALS AND WASTE ARENAS

The purpose of the subject meeting was to solicit stakeholder input on the use of risk information in the nuclear materials and waste regulatory process. In particular, insights gained from the case studies and plans for moving forward were discussed with the attendees. This meeting was held in the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Auditorium on October 25, 2001. The meeting was noticed in the Federal Register (66 FR 47512, September 12, 2001).

The meeting transcript, attendance list, presentation slides, and meeting handouts are attached.

Summary:

On October 25, 2001, the Risk Task Group (RTG) held a public meeting in the NRC auditorium to: (1) present insights, from case studies, about finalization of the screening considerations, regulatory process improvements, and development of safety goals for use of risk information in the nuclear materials and waste regulatory process; (2) discuss plans for moving forward with risk-informed activities in the materials and waste arenas; and (3) solicit comments and recommendations on the development of safety goals and the planned activities. More than 30 people representing a cross-section of stakeholders attended the meeting, including representatives from industry, the Federal government, non-governmental organizations, and NRC.

The staff began by noting the September 11, 2001, terrorist attack has made it necessary for the Agency to reassess documents that may contain potentially sensitive material. Therefore, individual case study reports were not made available to the stakeholders before the meeting. However, a poster exhibition of case studies was held before the meeting, to give stakeholders the opportunity to discuss specific case study results with RTG staff.

During the feedback session, the stakeholders asked a few clarifying questions, provided some comments, and generally supported our risk-informing effort. The stakeholders also recognized the role of a risk-informed approach in achieving NRC's strategic goals, suggested some process improvements, and encouraged the staff to proceed toward the implementation phase. In particular, several stakeholders expressed the opinion that the development of safety goals would help define how safe is safe enough.

During the concluding remarks, staff noted that there were no negative comments on the development of safety goals. Also, staff's current plan is to publish the integrated case studies report and the screening considerations guidance by the end of 2001. However, this schedule could be impacted by the heightened level of scrutiny on all documents following the September 11, 2001, events.

Attachments:

1. Meeting Transcript
2. Attendance List
3. Presentation Slides (NRC staff and Brookhaven National Laboratories)
4. Meeting Handouts
    a. Agenda
    b. Revised screening considerations
    c. Copy of case studies poster
    d. Draft case studies summary and integration report

During the feedback session, the stakeholders asked a few clarifying questions, provided some comments, and generally supported our risk-informing effort. The stakeholders also recognized the role of a risk-informed approach in achieving NRC's strategic goals, suggested some process improvements, and encouraged the staff to proceed toward the implementation phase. In particular, several stakeholders expressed the opinion that the development of safety goals would help define how safe is safe enough.

During the concluding remarks, staff noted that there were no negative comments on the development of safety goals. Also, staff's current plan is to publish the integrated case studies report and the screening considerations guidance by the end of 2001. However, this schedule could be impacted by the heightened level of scrutiny on all documents following the September 11, 2001, events.

Attachments:

1. Meeting Transcript and Errata
2. Attendance List
3. Presentation Slides (NRC staff and Brookhaven National Laboratories)
4. Meeting Handouts
   a. Agenda
   b. Revised screening considerations
   c. Copy of case studies poster
   d. Draft case studies summary and integration report

DISTRIBUTION
RTG r/f
NMSS r/f
ADAMS ML013520060 (Pkg.)

OFC	NMSS/RTG		NMSS/RTG							
NAME	CLui		LKokajko							
DATE	12/14/01		12/17/01							

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY