

July 16, 2002

Dr. George E. Apostolakis, Chairman
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

SUBJECT: PROPOSED REVISION TO 10 CFR 50.48 ENDORSING NFPA-805,
"PERFORMANCE-BASED STANDARD FOR FIRE PROTECTION FOR LIGHT
WATER REACTOR ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANTS"

Dear Dr. Apostolakis:

This is in response to your letter of June 17, 2002, which summarized the results of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards' review of the proposed rule revision to endorse the fire protection standard National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 805 and recommended that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) should issue the proposed rule for public comment.

While proceeding with this rulemaking, we will be cognizant of the cautionary note in your letter to the effect that the probabilistic risk assessment methods and fire models that NRC approves for implementing the final performance-based fire protection rule must be "commensurate with the levels of risk, while being careful to not create unnecessary barriers to the use of the standard."

We look forward to providing a final risk-informed, performance-based fire protection rule for ACRS review.

Sincerely,

/RA by William F. Kane Acting For/

William D. Travers
Executive Director
for Operations

cc: Chairman Meserve
Commissioner Dicus
Commissioner Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
SECY

July 16, 2002

Dr. George E. Apostolakis, Chairman
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

SUBJECT: PROPOSED REVISION TO 10 CFR 50.48 ENDORSING NFPA-805,
"PERFORMANCE-BASED STANDARD FOR FIRE PROTECTION FOR LIGHT
WATER REACTOR ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANTS"

Dear Dr. Apostolakis:

This is in response to your letter of June 17, 2002, which summarized the results of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards' review of the proposed rule revision to endorse the fire protection standard National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 805 and recommended that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) should issue the proposed rule for public comment.

While proceeding with this rulemaking, we will be cognizant of the cautionary note in your letter to the effect that the probabilistic risk assessment methods and fire models that NRC approves for implementing the final performance-based fire protection rule must be "commensurate with the levels of risk, while being careful to not create unnecessary barriers to the use of the standard."

We look forward to providing a final risk-informed, performance-based fire protection rule for ACRS review.

Sincerely,
/RA by William F. Kane Acting For/

William D. Travers
Executive Director
for Operations

cc: Chairman Meserve
Commissioner Dicus
Commissioner Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
SECY

DISTRIBUTION: ADAMS SPLB R/F LWhitney JBirmingham EWeiss JHannon
CPaperiello PNorry SBlack GHolahan BSheron SCollins WKane
WTravers CCraig Burns/Cyr ATHadani LShoenfeld ACRS r/f
TGorham (GT 20020377/LTR-02-0430) PMagnanelli (GT 20020377/LTR-02-0430)

Package Accession No. ML021780064

Incoming Accession No. ML021750022

Memo Accession No. ML021780056

* See previous concurrence

DOCUMENT NAME: G:\SPLB\SECTION B - WEISS\WHITNEY\GT 20020377 805 ACRS Response.wpd

OFFICE	SPLB:DSSA:NRR	SC:SPLB:DSSA	TECH ED	BC:SPLB:DSSA	D:DSSA
NAME	LWhitney:bw	EWeiss	PGarrity	JHannon	GHolahan
DATE	06/26/02*	06/27/02*	6/26/02*	06/27/02*	7/01/02*
OFFICE	ADPT:NRR	D:NRR	EDO		
NAME	JZwolinski for BSheron	SCollins	WTravers		
DATE	7/2/02*	7/9/02*	07/16/02	/ /02	/ /02

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY