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FOI/PA REQUEST

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Desc: Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552, as amended and 10 C.F.R. 9.8 of the Commission's regulations, UCS hereby requests that NRC make available copies of the pre-calculated risk numbers for each operating nuclear power plant in Region II. At an October 30, 2002, plenary session on risk-informed initiatives during the Nuclear Safety Research Conference, Mr. Luis Reyes of NRC Region II stated that his risk analysts had pre-calculated the risk numbers for postulated events like steam generator tube rupture and loss of offsite power and compiled the results into a convenient form for his use in deciding whether to dispatch an NRC team to a site per Management Directive 8.3. UCS is requesting the risk number results for each nuclear power plant in Region II, not all the materials and information reviewed/used by the risk analysts in creating this compilation.

If all or any part of this request is denied, please cite the specific exemptions relied upon in refusing to release the materials. Further, since the Freedom of Information Act provides that the remainder of a file must be released if only portions are exempt from disclosure, UCS requests that we be provided with all non-exempt portions that are reasonably degradable. Of course, we reserve the right to appeal the withholding or deletion of any information.

FeeCategory: Educational

Waiver_Purpose: To gather information relative to the NRC's reactor oversight program and the event follow-up portion of that program.

Waiver_ExtentToExtractAnalyze: UCS will review the data so as to better understand why NRC would dispatch a team following an event at one plant and not dispatch a team following an apparently identical event at another plant. Differences between plant designs may make the risk from the same initiating event, like loss of offsite power, different. UCS seeks to better understand these differences so as to

preclude confusion over apparent inconsistent NRC reaction to comparable events.

Waiver_SpecificActivityQuals: UCS has been heavily engaged during the development and use of the revised reactor oversight program. UCS served on the Pilot Program Evaluation Panel, a formal advisory group chartered by the NRC in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act to monitor the pilot program period for the reactor oversight program and formally comment on it. In addition, UCS has made several presentations to the NRC Commission, as recently as May 1st of this year, regarding the reactor oversight program's strengths and weaknesses. UCS seeks the subject information so as to further our education and awareness of the reactor oversight program so as to sustain our ability to provide the Commission with meaningful, substantive commentaries.

Waiver_ImpactPublicUnderstanding: The daily event reports posted each work day on the NRC's website provide the public with information about events at US nuclear power plants. News releases posted on the NRC's website provide the public with information when NRC sends a team to a nuclear plant following an event in accordance with Management Directive 8.3. The Management Directive, which is also publicly available on the NRC's website, describes the decision-making process used by NRC management in determining whether to dispatch a team, and if so, what scope of effort to assign to the team. The Management Directive provides risk thresholds to guide these decisions.

Absent the information being sought by UCS, the public is apt to be confused when NRC Region II dispatches a team to a nuclear plant following an event like a dropped control rod but does not dispatch a team to another nuclear plant following that same event. Armed with the information being sought, UCS and the public will better understand plant-specific risk differences that cause one plant to warrant a team inspection and not the other plant.

Waiver_NatureOfPublic: UCS has an active membership of over 40,000 persons. Approximately one-third of our membership are scientists of varying disciplines. The rest are citizens/activists/environmentalists. UCS has a website (www.ucsusa.org) that received an average of 31,922 hits per day during June 2002, a representative month for volume. UCS is a frequent source of information to the media, Capitol Hill, and citizens/activists living near nuclear power plants.

Waiver_MeansOfDissemination: UCS will cite the requested information during upcoming presentations to the NRC Commission and during other NRC public meetings, such as at next year's Regulatory Information Conference (RIC). UCS learned about the information being requested while serving on the same panel at the NRC research conference as Mr. Reyes. We expect to have plenty of future opportunities to engage the NRC on this important topic. In many cases, our written materials for such presentations will be posted to our website, www.ucsusa.org, and available for viewing/download without charge or fee.

Waiver_FreeToPublicOrFee: Yes, as detailed in the response to Item 6. In addition, anyone calling UCS to request a copy of material presented during an NRC public meeting, but not posted on our website, will be provided with a free copy.

Waiver_PrivateCommericalInterest: Neither UCS or any affiliated party has a commercial interest in obtaining the requested information. The requested information will be provided in response to all requests without charge. The sole interest of UCS in the requested information is to improve the interface between NRC and its public stakeholders.

SUBMIT: Submit
