

December 2, 2002

MEMORANDUM TO: Jack Rosenthal, Chief, SMSAB:DSARE:RES

FROM: Stephen M. Bajorek, SMSAB:DSARE:RES *Original signed by S. Bajorek*

SUBJECT: TRIP REPORT FOR NEA/CSNI MEETINGS IN PARIS ON  
NOVEMBER 21-22, 2002 TO DEVELOP AN ACTION PLAN IN THE  
AREA OF SAFETY MARGINS

The NRC participates in several OECD Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) Committee on the Safety of Nuclear Installations (CSNI) working groups. A meeting was held on 21-22 November 2002 to develop a CSNI action plan in the area of safety margins. The objective of the plan and meeting was to define and quantify "safety margins" in nuclear power plants and identify appropriate means to evaluate these margins. In this treatment of safety margin, an additional goal of the group was to consider several analysis disciplines (fuel safety, thermal-hydraulics, containment, severe accident, etc.) and not to solely focus on a single area such as primary system thermal-hydraulics.

The group developed an Action Plan during the 21-22 November 2002 meetings. The Action Plan, if approved by CSNI, would generate a report over the next three years that would fully define safety margins in nuclear power plants, and identify appropriate methods for safety margin assessment. Parameters and metrics for quantifying safety margins would also be developed. The group that developed the Action Plan would become a new working group similar to the Special Expert Group on Fuel Safety Margins (SEGFSM) and the Working Group on Analysis and Management of Accidents (GAMA), but would be cross-cutting in scope.

The attachment contains details on the proposed Action Plan.

cc w/att.:

F. Eltawila, RES  
A. Szukiewicz, RES  
J. Craig, EDO  
J. Dunn-Lee, OP  
T. Rothchild, OGC  
J. Strosnider, RES

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