

January 7, 2003

MEMORANDUM TO: Farouk Eltawila, Director
Division of Systems Analysis and Regulatory Effectiveness
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

FROM: Jose G. Ibarra, Assistant Chief */RA/*
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SUBJECT: REPOSTING OF NUREG-0933, "A PRIORITIZATION OF GENERIC SAFETY ISSUES"

An evaluation of NUREG-0933, "A Prioritization of Generic Safety Issues," has been completed. The evaluation found no information in the NUREG that met the criteria for withholding sensitive homeland security information from the public. Therefore, it is recommended that NUREG-0933 be reposted on the NRC web site.

Background

On April 4, 2002, the EDO sent to the Commission proposed criteria concerning the withholding of sensitive homeland security information from the public, and these were approved by the Commission in COMSECY-02-0015. The April 4, 2002, memorandum noted that since the terrorist events of September 11, 2001, the staff shutdown its web site, and had subsequently re-examined policies on the dissemination of information routinely provided to the public. In the memorandum, the staff proposed criteria for use in deciding what information should not be released to the public. The guidance and criteria in the memorandum were consistent with the draft definition that the Office of Homeland Security had developed for Sensitive Homeland Security Information.

RES document NUREG-0933, "A Prioritization of Generic Safety Issues," was one of many documents removed from the NRC public web site following the terrorist events of September 11, 2001. NUREG-0933 had been readily available to the public for many years. Because this is a source of useful reactor safety information, an evaluation of NUREG-0933 was conducted to determine whether it should be returned to and made available on the NRC public web site.

Panel

A panel of REAHFB staff was selected to review NUREG-0933 against COMSECY-02-0015 criteria for withholding of information from the public. The staff selected was multi-disciplinary and experienced in nuclear power plant operations and analysis. This panel had not previously been associated with the Generic Safety Issue (GSI) resolution process. Independent of this panel review, two other staff members intimately familiar with the GSI resolution process also reviewed NUREG-0933.

Process

Each panel member reviewed NUREG-0933 GSIs against the COMSECY-02-0015 criteria for withholding of information from the public. While most GSIs were easy to evaluate, a few were identified for further review and panel discussion. The panel members then met to discuss their independent results and further review the specific questionable GSIs. A consensus was reached on all the issues. The results of this panel were then shared with the two members of the Generic Issues Team.

Results

Both the REAHFB Panel and the members of Generic Issues Team found that information in NUREG-0933 did not include sensitive homeland security information as defined by the criteria of COMSECY-02-0015. Therefore, it was concluded that NUREG-0933 should be returned to the NRC public web site.

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