

January 28, 2003

Professor Mark D. Cooper
Department of Applied Health Sciences
Indiana University
Bloomington, IN 47405-7000

Dear Professor Cooper:

SUBJECT: INQUIRY TO NRC CHAIRMAN, DR. RICHARD MESERVE, DATED
DECEMBER 5, 2002, REGARDING QUANTIFYING SAFETY CULTURE

Thank you for your inquiry expressing interest in quantifying safety culture. Chairman Meserve has asked that I respond to your questions related to available funding to facilitate research in this area, specifically for a research proposal entitled, "Quantify the Safety Culture of Decommissioning Nuclear Facilities."

You indicate that the method you propose would make use of an organizational psychology model of safety culture that examines the relationships between safety management systems, people's perceptions and attitudes about safety and their safety behavior at strategic, tactical, operational, behavioral and defensive levels of a facility. The NRC continues to monitor experience in this area and, if the need should arise for further effort, we will be requesting proposals from a number of sources and your name will be added to that list for competition.

Again, thank you for your interest. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact J. Persensky on (301) 415-6759 or at jjp2@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Ashok C. Thadani, Director
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

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