

October 22, 2003

The Honorable Sean O'Keefe, Administrator
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Washington, D.C. 20546-0001

Dear Mr. O'Keefe:

Your letter of September 4, 2003, requested the name of a Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff member to serve as NRC's technical advisor to the Interagency Nuclear Safety Review Panel (INSRP) for the New Horizons mission. I designate Mr. Alan Kuritzky as NRC's technical advisor for this INSRP. Mr. Kuritzky's resume is summarized in the enclosure. He may be reached at (301) 415-6255, and his email address is ask1@nrc.gov.

We look forward to helping the National Aeronautics and Space Administration ensure the safe launch of the New Horizons mission as you continue your mission to explore our solar system.

Sincerely,

/ RA /

Ashok C. Thadani, Director
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

Enclosure: As stated

Distribution: A. Kuritzky, A. Rubin, M. Cunningham, S. Newberry, J. Strosnider/A. Thadani, M. Virgilio, S. Burns/K. Cyr, W. Dean, S. Collins, W. Kane, C. Paperiello, P. Norry, W. Travers, PRAB r/f, EDO# 20030598, RES# 2003227

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Mr. Alan S. Kuritzky is a Senior Reliability and Risk Analyst in the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Division of Risk Analysis and Applications, Probabilistic Risk Assessment Branch. He has approximately 22 years of experience in Probabilistic Risk Assessment (PRA) and PRA-related fields (e.g., reliability-centered maintenance and availability improvement programs), including involvement in PRAs for eight different nuclear plants, and system (fault tree) analysis for over sixty plant systems, including virtually all major reactor, engineered safety feature, balance of plant, auxiliary and support systems. He has performed system unavailability modeling studies (including fault tree modeling and detailed data analysis) for many plant safety systems, as part of Maintenance Program Optimization programs for a number of nuclear plants.

Mr. Kuritzky is currently serving as the task manager and/or the technical lead for a number of tasks as part of the NRC effort for performing risk-integrated vulnerability assessments for power reactors. He previously served as project manager for the NRC program to risk-inform the technical requirements of NRC's basic safety requirements contained in 10 CFR Part 50. Mr. Kuritzky was the NRC's designee for the Interagency Nuclear Safety Review Panel (INSRP) for the Mars Exploration Rover (MER) 2003 missions.

Previously as a contractor, Mr. Kuritzky has served as project coordinator for the review of 26 Individual Plant Examinations for External Events (IPEEEs), which involved coordinating and integrating reviews for seismic, fire and HFO (high wind, flood and other external) events. He has served as task leader for the regulatory PRA studies for three Swiss nuclear power plants (Beznau, Leibstadt and Gösgen). He has also served as principal instructor for a week-long training course on fundamentals of PRA (which covered plant modeling, selection and categorization of initiating events, development of event trees and fault trees, database development, human reliability analysis, sequence quantification and uncertainty analysis), which was presented to a team of Slovakian and Swiss nuclear regulatory authority personnel.