

January 15, 2004

Dr. Mario V. Bonaca, Chairman
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

SUBJECT: DRAFT NUREG-0800, STANDARD REVIEW PLAN,
CHAPTER 18.0, HUMAN FACTORS ENGINEERING

Dear Dr. Bonaca:

This is in response to your letter dated December 12, 2003, presenting the conclusions and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) with regard to the staff's recent update to Standard Review Plan (SRP) Chapter 18.0, "Human Factors Engineering," and the documents referenced in that chapter: NUREG-0711, Rev 2., "Human Factors Engineering Program Review Model; NUREG-0700, Rev. 2, "Human-System Interface Design Review Guidelines;" and NUREG-1764, "Guidance for the Review of Changes to Human Actions." The ACRS concluded that the update to SRP Chapter 18.0 and associated documents properly incorporated the needed changes that facilitate anticipated reviews and clarify the human factors engineering review process. The ACRS also concluded that the staff's innovative use of risk importance measures to screen licensee submissions for human factors review and to guide the depth and detail of these reviews holds promise of more effective use of staff resources and improved plant safety.

I appreciate the Committee's long-standing interest in human factors engineering and the staff review process. We look forward to future interactions with the ACRS on these matters, as experience is gained in implementing the proposed guidance.

Sincerely,

/RA/

William D. Travers
Executive Director
for Operations

cc: Chairman Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield
SECY

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