

Expert Elicitation Workshop on the Criteria for Allowing Operator Manual Actions in Fire Situations

On May 4-5, 2004, the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) conducted an expert elicitation workshop in support of the rulemaking to revise 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix R, Section III.G.2. The proposed revision of Section III.G.2 will allow licensees to rely on local manual actions in lieu of fire barriers. RES is supporting this rulemaking activity by incorporating human reliability analysis (HRA) lessons-learned to address the issue of "reliability" for the manual actions. Based on work performed thus far, the staff concluded that the issue of reliability can be addressed by incorporating a "time margin" in the licensee's time estimates for performing the human actions. An appropriate time margin can ensure that the actions will be completed successfully in a high percentage of cases. The objective of the workshop was to determine this "time margin" (or margins). During the workshop, experts concluded that a time margin is best determined in terms of applying a factor, that a "factor of 2" is appropriate, and that this factor can be applied to all types of human actions (simple or complex, preventative or reactive).

Briefing of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safety on Regulatory Guide 1.200 for Trial Use

On May 6, 2004, the Offices of Nuclear Regulatory Research and Nuclear Reactor Regulation briefed the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safety (ACRS) on current and planned activities related to Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.200 for trial use, "An Approach for Determining the Technical Adequacy of Probabilistic Risk Assessment Results for Risk-Informed Activities," and associated Standard Review Plan 19.1. Pilot license applications have been scheduled at five plants and involve technical specification changes and 10 CFR Part 50.69. For each pilot, an NRC review team will be on site and will conduct reviews to thoroughly exercise various aspects of the regulatory guide and to gain insights on implementation. The pilots are currently scheduled to be completed by December 2004. Based on the lessons learned from the pilots, the staff plans to revise and issue Revision 0 of RG 1.200 in April 2005. The Committee agreed that the pilots should identify areas of improvements to RG 1.200 and ASME RA-S-2002, "Standard for Probabilistic Risk Assessment for Nuclear Power Plant Applications," provide insights on the necessary scope and level of detail of licensee submittals and staff review, and provide insights for development of other PRA standards such as internal fire.

Good Practices for Implementing Human Reliability Analysis

On May 6, 2004, the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research staff briefed the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) on the draft report "Good Practices for Implementing Human Reliability Analysis (HRA)." The draft report provides guidance for performing and reviewing HRAs and supports the implementation of Regulatory Guide 1.200, "An Approach for Determining the Technical Adequacy of Probabilistic Risk Assessment Results for Risk-Informed Activities." The ACRS indicated that it will write a letter recommending release of the draft report to the public for review and comment. The final report is scheduled to be updated by the end of the year and issued in early 2005.

DD-5