

June 23, 2005

MEMORANDUM TO: Dr. Rodican Reed, Project Officer  
Specialized Technical Training  
Human Resources Training and Development  
Office of Human Resources

FROM: Melanie A. Galloway, Chief **/RA/**  
Technical Support Group  
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety  
and Safeguards, NMSS

SUBJECT: UPDATING CONTENT OF TWO SELF-STUDY COURSES

On June 8, 2005, we received a copy of a letter from the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE), dated May 20, 2005. The letter requested the assistance of subject matter experts in the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards (FCSS) to review the content of the student manuals for two existing directed self-study courses and provide specific comments for updating purposes. These are the Fuel Cycle Processes Course (F-201S) and Nuclear Criticality Safety Course (F-101S).

As you may recall, on June 17, 2005, we provided to you comments for updating purposes to the Technical Training Center on the student manual for the F-101S Course. We were able to provide them within the 6-week time allotment that had been requested for the F-101S Course, because the Technical Support Group (TSG) in FCSS had, in January 2005, independently initiated an effort to revise F-101S based on general comments previously provided by Harry Felsher of my staff on May 20, 2003.

The following provides a summary of the significant additions to the F-101S Course through our previously provided comments:

- Criticality accident alarms (added to Module 1)
- Data references for criticality safety guidance (added to Module 1)
- Integrated safety analysis (added to Module 1)
- NRC Nuclear Criticality Safety License Review Practices (NUREG-1520) (added to Module 1)
- Rewriting of the Codes section of Module 3 to include more information on KENO, and to provide information on Monk and MCNP (revised/added to Module 3)

However, the 6-week time allotted to provide comments for a similar purpose on the F-201S Course is too short a time for FCSS to respond effectively. Based on an earlier understanding, we were planning to complete our assessment of the current course and provide comments in the Fall of 2005. As such, we do not expect to be able to provide complete comments on the F-201S course until October 1, 2005. Because of the volume of course material, its importance to training in support of our mission, and its lower priority than direct mission-related tasks, please allot a minimum 3-month lead time for subsequent reviews requested.

FCSS presented the classroom version of the F-201S Course (now designated as the F-201 Course) at the end of April this year. We provided you copies of the raw evaluation scores and comments we collected from our students at the end of that course. We have done some preliminary analysis of those ratings and comments and have some preliminary ideas about how to revise that course and, by implication, the F-201S Course as well. We expect to engage our F-201 instructors in an updating effort to address both the F-201 and F-201S courses this summer. Because they have many other duties, we expect it will take several months to arrive at a useful set of recommendations for modifying these courses to meet our needs. The following provides a summary of some of the anticipated changes to the F-201 and F-201S courses that we will more fully support in comments to you by October 1, 2005:

- Make the course material more risk-informed (i.e., reduce the amount of information presented in some areas where there are few or no dominant risks; add more specificity to areas where there are dominant risks). This should make both the course material and classroom presentations more relevant to the regulatory challenges our license reviewers, inspectors, and other regulatory staff will be facing.
- Shorten some of the classroom presentations, by removing unnecessary or obsolete details, to allow more time for classroom discussions. We feel the self-study student manual could benefit from such trimming, as well.

Based on our continuing review, we suggest that ORISE not initiate revisions to the F-201 and F-201S courses until we have provided more complete comments by October 1, 2005.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Craig Hrabal at (301)415-8043 for the F-101S course and Lance Lessler at (301)415-8144 for the F-201 and F-201S courses.

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