June 30, 2005

MEMORANDUM TO: Stuart A. Richards, Chief
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Division of Inspection Program Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Michael D. Tschiltz, Chief
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FROM: Nilesh C. Chokshi, Chief */RA/*
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SUBJECT: COMPLETION OF RISK ASSESSMENT STANDARDIZATION PROJECT (RASP) ACTIVITY - SIMPLIFIED EXPERT ELICITATION PROCEDURE FOR RISK ASSESSMENT OF OPERATING EVENTS

REFERENCE:

1. Memorandum from J.E. Dyer to A. C. Thadani, Re: User Need Request for Support in the Development of Standard Procedures and Methods for Risk Assessments of Inspection Findings and Reactor Incidents," February 17, 2004.

2. Memorandum from C.E. Ader, S.C. Black, and B.A. Boger to J.E. Dyer and C.J. Paperiello Re: "Concurrence on Milestones and Deliverables for the Risk Assessment Standardization Project (RASP)," October 1, 2004.

This memorandum transmits the subject report (Attached) as requested in Appendix A1.2.e. of Reference 1. Although not specifically scheduled in Reference 2, it also has been coordinated with NRR staff and is consistent with the objective asking RES to provide guidelines for resolving technical issues surrournding risk assessments of operating events and conditions. Additionally, it completes RES operating plan milestone under activity 1GAF (RASP Support: Issue final ASP expert elicitation guideline).

The subject report contains formal, documented guidelines and steps for determining Probabilistic Risk Assessment (PRA) input parameters using expert opinion and judgment for operational event analysis. These steps are consistent with the formal expert elicitation methods that have been used in the nuclear power and other industries for using expert opinion. However, these steps have been simplified and streamlined as appropriate for use in Phase 3 of the Significance Determination Process (SDP) and the Accident Sequence Precursor (ASP) Program, as well as risk analyses of events in the ASP and events assessment under the NRC's Incident Investigation Program (Management Directive 8.3).

The attached document is one of the products of the “Risk Assessment Standardization Project” (RASP). The primary focus of the RASP is to standardize risk analyses of conditions and events under SDP, ASP, and Management Directive 8.3. This document is being issued as Version 0 of the “Simplified Expert Elicitation Guideline for Risk Assessment of Operating Events.” Consistent with the release of the RASP Handbook on Operating Events Analysis Methods, we are providing this as optional and supplemental guidance. NRC analysts may use this guidance in their programs when they need to use expert opinion to estimate probabilities of failure or human error and data from other sources are not available. Insights gained by applying the guidelines for a year can be factored into a revision of the document in July 2006, if needed.

We continue to believe that the products resulting from the RASP will greatly assist NRC staff in improving the timeliness, quality and consistency of risk assessments. Please contact Bennett Brady of my staff at 301-415-6363 with any comments or questions about the use of this document.

Attachment: As stated

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Attachment: As stated

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