

September 13, 2005

MEMORANDUM TO: John T. Larkins, Executive Director
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards

FROM: Farouk Eltawila, Director **/RA/**
Division of Systems Analysis and Regulatory Effectiveness
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

SUBJECT: PUBLICATION OF DRAFT REGULATORY GUIDE DG-1120 (DG-1120),
“TRANSIENT AND ACCIDENT ANALYSIS METHODS,” AND
STANDARD REVIEW PLAN CHAPTER 15 SECTION 15.0.2 (SRP
15.0.2), “REVIEW OF TRANSIENTS AND ACCIDENT METHODS”

DG-1120 provides guidance to licensees on the development and assessment of transient and accident evaluation models. The corresponding Standard Review Plan SRP 15.0.2 provides guidance to NRC staff in the review of the analytical codes. On several occasions over a four year period, from 1998 through 2002, the full Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) and its Thermal-Hydraulic Phenomena Subcommittee held meetings with representatives of the NRC staff to discuss these documents and to recommend follow-on improvements. At the present time, following the last iteration of review and improvement, all of the necessary modifications recommended by the committee have been implemented.

As a result of the recommendations made by the ACRS following its 495th meeting, held from 12-14 September, 2002, the staff made modifications to DG-1120 and SRP 15.0.2 that marked the culmination of the improvements deemed necessary by the committee. After the 495th meeting, the committee members recommended that DG-1120 and SRP 15.0.2 be issued a second time for public comment after the minor differences between Section 5 of DG-1120 and Section 6 of SRP 15.0.2 were reconciled. These sections describe the use of a graded approach to the guidance, an approach the committee found acceptable. Therefore, in accordance with the committee's recommendation, the identified differences between DG-1120 and SRP 15.0.2 were reconciled and the documents were again disseminated for public comment. Several stakeholders participated, and similar to the first comment period, their main concerns focused on the degree to which the process described in DG-1120 applied to small changes in approved analysis methods. In response to these concerns, an example scenario was provided as an Appendix B to the regulatory guide. The example scenario demonstrates the use of a graded approach to the guidance when modifying an existing evaluation model for a category of non-LOCA transients. The rest of DG-1120, which had remained substantially unchanged since the last committee review, was found to be acceptable by the committee.

The following attachments are provided for your information: the latest version of DG-1120 (Attachment 1), SRP 15.0.2 (Attachment 2), and a table showing stakeholder comments and

corresponding answers from the NRC staff (Attachments 3). If you have any questions regarding these attachments, please contact Shawn Marshall at (301) 415-5861.

Attachments:

1. Regulatory Guide DG-1120
2. SRP 15.0.2
3. Stakeholder comments and answers

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Attachments:

1. Regulatory Guide DG-1120
2. SRP 15.0.2
3. Stakeholder comments and answers

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