

January 12, 2006

Mr. Douglas J. Walters
Director, Emergency Planning and
Security Nuclear Generation Division
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 I Street, NW, Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20006-3708

SUBJECT: NRC RESPONSE TO INDUSTRY REQUEST FOR MULTIPLE INTEGRATED
LASER ENGAGEMENT SYSTEM OPERATING, MAINTENANCE, AND SAFETY
PROCEDURAL GUIDANCE

Dear Mr. Walters:

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff received a request from Mr. James Palmieri of your staff on November 21, 2005 for sharing of Department of Energy (DOE) procedures for the operation, maintenance, and safety of Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System (MILES) exercise simulation system (ESS) equipment used in NRC's force-on-force (FOF) inspection program. The request originated in industry discussions as part of a Workshop of Security Training Instructors in San Antonio, Texas during the week of November 14, 2005.

Definition of licensee's exercise simulation system equipment operation, maintenance and testing procedures is not an area where NRC should take a leading role or where regulatory guidance currently is needed. Licensees have their own armories and support staff or support contracts to meet their unique needs.

NRC's minimum safety expectations are shared with licensees during every MILES safety briefing as part of the FOF inspection process and have been included in the recently revised Inspection Procedure 71130.03, "Contingency Response - Force-on-Force Testing," effective December 30, 2005. However, if a licensee's own exercise simulation equipment is being used for the inspection, NRC does have a legitimate need to be able to see how maintenance and testing is managed to ensure the suitability of licensees' equipment for inspection use.

Licensees, or the industry as a whole, may wish to standardize their methods and processes through the application of appropriate industry national consensus standards and, as with other national consensus standards, the NRC recognizes the value of such an approach. If NRC input is needed, it should either be through the agency's participation in the national consensus standards committees, by agency endorsement of an appropriate industry standard other than a national consensus standard, or by issuance of regulatory guidance related to rulemaking or other regulatory requirements.

D. Walters

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Please contact Ron Albert at (301) 415-6692 or myself if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Ralph Way, Director
Nuclear Security Operations
Division of Nuclear Security
Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response

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Sincerely,

/RA/

Ralph Way, Director
Nuclear Security Operations
Division of Nuclear Security
Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response

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