May 22, 2006

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

FROM: Michael J. Case, Director **/RA/**
Division of Inspection and Regional Support
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SAMPLING OF INSPECTIONS, TESTS, ANALYSES AND ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA (ITAAC) DURING CONSTRUCTION INSPECTIONS

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform the members of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) about how the NRR staff has addressed the sampling of inspections, tests, analyses and acceptance criteria (ITAAC) during construction inspections. This information is being provided as a followup to a December 2004 presentation by the staff to the ACRS on the development of the construction inspection program.

On April 25, 2006, the Reactor Inspection Branch, Division of Inspection and Regional Support issued Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 2503, "Inspections of Inspections, Tests, Analyses, and Acceptance Criteria (ITAAC)," which describes the policies and inspections to be used for the NRC's inspection of the ITAAC of a combined license (ADAMS Accession No. ML043100008). Since the staff will perform inspections of ITAAC on a sampling basis, a process was needed to identify those ITAAC that should receive priority for direct inspection. Contained in IMC-2503 is a description of the processes the NRC is using to identify the ITAAC for a specific design to be given priority for inspection. That process consists of two parts: (1) the ITAAC Matrix, which is used to group similar ITAAC and (2) the Sample Selection Process, which prioritizes ITAAC based on the level of assurance that can be obtained from inspecting that ITAAC.

The Sample Selection Process is the culmination of a year of work by the staff and a contractor. The objective of the sample selection process contract was to have an independent party develop a methodology that would allow the NRC to inspect ITAAC on a sampling basis while providing the NRC with assurance that all ITAAC are met. This objective was achieved by designing a methodology comparing the value of inspecting one ITAAC versus another and selecting those ITAAC for inspection which contribute more to obtaining assurance that the ITAAC-related work is being done successfully. The contractor's report, describing the development of the methodology and the outcome can be found in ADAMS at Accession No. ML060740006. Copies of this report are also being provided in hard copy for members of the ACRS.

CONTACT: Mary Ann M. Ashley, DIRS/NRR
301-415-1073

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