

July 27, 2006

Ms. Barbara J. Schrage  
Managing Director  
American Institute in Taiwan  
1700 N. Moore Street, Suite 1700  
Arlington, VA 22209

Dear Ms. Schrage:

This letter is to inform you that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (U.S. NRC) has decided to discontinue, as of September 30, 2006, the activities associated with the International Cooperative Probabilistic Risk Assessment (COOPRA) Research Program. This includes all activities associated with the COOPRA Steering Committee, Working Groups, and Web site. Toward that end, the U.S. NRC is giving 180 days notice that, with the exception of the aforementioned COOPRA activities, we will keep intact all provisions in the agreement for bilateral cooperation with the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT), through its designated representative, the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO).

Staff representatives of the U.S. NRC discussed the future of the COOPRA Research Program with the COOPRA partners at the last Steering Committee meeting on October 27–28, 2005. Our principal concern with the program was that differences between activities carried out by COOPRA and the Working Group on Risk Assessment (WGRisk) of the Committee on the Safety of Nuclear Installations (CSNI) have narrowed, resulting in overlapping responsibilities and duplication of effort. In recent years, the benefits of the COOPRA Research Program have diminished as a result of declining COOPRA membership and limited resources available from partner organizations to support the program's activities. Consequently, the U.S. NRC evaluated options for the future of COOPRA, including discontinuing the program.

COOPRA has the following three Working Groups:

- Fire-Induced Damage to Electrical Cables and Circuits (FIDECC)
- Risk-Informed Decision-Making (RIDeM)
- Low-Power and Shutdown (LPSD)

The FIDECC Working Group has not been active lately and currently has no chairperson. The RIDeM Working Group holds annual meetings, at which participants exchange information on research results. The LPSD Working Group has three ongoing activities under COOPRA, and the U.S. NRC has been interacting with WGRisk to have those activities transferred to that organization.

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Following the last Steering Committee meeting, the U.S. NRC requested the partners' input and recommendations on the future of COOPRA. After assessing the input, we have decided to discontinue the COOPRA program. Nonetheless, I want to emphasize that the U.S. NRC will maintain our ongoing bilateral agreement with the AIT and TECRO for the exchange of information related to probabilistic risk assessment (PRA). Any future cooperative work in the PRA area will be accomplished through that bilateral agreement.

Over the years, the COOPRA Research Program has achieved its purpose and established a very effective organization serving participants in PRA international cooperation. I would like to thank the AIT and TECRO for their participation and contributions to COOPRA. It has been a pleasure working with you and your organization, and I look forward to continued cooperation through our existing bilateral agreement.

If you have any questions or comments on this matter, please contact Dr. Asimios Malliakos of my staff at (301) 415-6458 or via email to [ACM1@nrc.gov](mailto:ACM1@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

*/RA/* Brian W. Sheron

Brian W. Sheron, Director  
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

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Brian W. Sheron, Director  
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

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