



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS
WASHINGTON, DC 20555 - 0001

ACRSR-2225

November 17, 2006

Mr. Luis A. Reyes
Executive Director for Operations
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

SUBJECT: PROPOSED REVISION 1 TO REGULATORY GUIDE 1.189 (DG-1170),
"FIRE PROTECTION FOR NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS"

Dear Mr. Reyes:

During the 537th meeting of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, November 1-3, 2006, we met with representatives of the NRC staff to discuss Proposed Revision 1 to Regulatory Guide 1.189 (DG-1170), "Fire Protection for Nuclear Power Plants." Our Subcommittee on Plant Operations and Fire Protection also reviewed this matter on October 31, 2006. We also had the benefit of the document referenced.

RECOMMENDATION

Proposed Revision 1 to Regulatory Guide 1.189 (DG-1170) should be issued for public comment. We would like to have an opportunity to review the draft final version of this Guide after resolution of public comments.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The regulatory framework which establishes the design principles and detailed requirements for fire protection in nuclear power plants are contained in various regulations, including General Design Criterion-3, "Fire Protection," of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix A. Over the last 30 years, experience gained through fire events, fire endurance testing, and improved analytical techniques has allowed the staff to identify areas where more detailed guidance is needed to fulfill the regulatory requirements. During this time the NRC has referenced or endorsed 72 Codes and Standards applicable to fire protection in nuclear power plants and published 91 other information or guidance documents to address the Commission's fire protection concerns and industry experience. These documents have been incorporated into, or referenced by DG-1170.

DG-1170 provides guidance for establishing the fire protection design bases and for the analysis, design, operation, and maintenance of fire protection features in existing and new nuclear power plants. In addition, this Guide provides guidance related to the organization, qualifications, duties, training, and staffing requirements of licensee personnel who administer the fire protection program and also the members of the shift fire brigades. DG-1170 contains a compendium of the current state of regulatory knowledge and guidance applicable to existing and future nuclear power plants, as well as those awaiting decommissioning or being decommissioned.

Proposed Revision 1 to Regulatory Guide 1.189 (DG-1170) should be issued for public comment. We would like to have an opportunity to review the draft final version of this Guide after resolution of public comments.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Graham B. Wallis
Chairman

Reference:

1. Memorandum dated September 25, 2006, from Jimi T. Yerokun, Chief, Risk Applications and Special Projects Branch, Division of Risk Assessment and Special Projects, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, to Michael R. Snodderly, Chief, Technical Support Branch, ACRS, Subject: Additional Information - Regulatory Guide 1.189, "Fire Protection for Nuclear Power Plants"