February 26, 2007

MEMORANDUM TO: Douglas W. Weaver, Chief
Guidance, Infrastructure, and Financial Review Branch
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors

FROM: Patrick L. Hiland, Director ***/RA/***
Division of Engineering
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: TRANSMITTAL OF PROPOSED REVISION TO STANDARD REVIEW PLAN NUREG-0800 BRANCH TECHNICAL POSITION 7-14, REV. 5, "GUIDANCE ON SOFTWARE REVIEWS FOR DIGITAL COMPUTER-BASED I&C SYSTEMS"

The purpose of this memorandum is to transmit the proposed revision to NUREG-0800, Standard Review Plan (SRP), Branch Technical Position (BTP) 7-14, Rev. 5, "Guidance on Software Reviews for Digital Computer-Based I&C Systems." This document is technically complete, reformatted in conformance with LIC-200, "Standard Review Plan Process," and is designated "publicly available."

In accordance with the staff requirements memorandum dated May 10, 2005, on the April 6, 2005 Commission meeting, the Office of New Reactors (NRO) and the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) have revised SRP BTP 7-14 (Enclosure). The present revision updates the June 1997 version. The revised portions of the SRP Section have been highlighted to aid in identifying the technical information that has been added or revised. Additional changes are summarized on the last page of the SRP section.

In addition, this revision has been administratively updated in accordance with NRR Office Instruction, LIC-200. The administrative update is comprised of assigning the review responsibilities by function, with the responsible organizations maintained separately from the SRP itself to minimize impacts of office reorganizations, and editorial and formatting changes. The revision also adds standard paragraphs to extend application of the updated SRP section to prospective submittals by applicants pursuant to 10 CFR Part 52.

The staff has determined that the changes do not involve any new staff positions. I understand, that most of the SRP sections will be issued as final versions without publishing them as draft and requesting comment. The staff is revising the SRP in this manner to provide a more up-to-date SRP in light of the requirement in 10 CFR 50.34(h) for an applicant to evaluate its facility against the SRP revision in effect six months before the docket date of the application.

CONTACT: Barry Marcus, EICB/DE/NRR
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In addition, this memo and its enclosure will be made publicly available as a preliminary SRP section. It will be formally published following reconciliation against the ongoing Part 52 rulemaking and regulatory guide updates including Regulatory Guide 1.206, “Combined License Applications for Nuclear Power Plants (LWR Edition).” After formal issuance, the SRP will be available for public comment. Comment resolution will be addressed in subsequent SRP revisions. Prior to revision to individual sections, comment resolution may establish a basis for how alternatives to the NUREG-0800 acceptance criteria provide an acceptable method of complying with the NRC's regulations.

For questions concerning this document, please contact Barry Marcus at 301-415-2823.

Enclosure:
As stated