



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

ACRSR-2229

December 15, 2006

Luis E. Reyes
Executive Director of Operations
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

SUBJECT: PROPOSED REVISION TO STANDARD REVIEW PLAN SECTION 13.3,
"EMERGENCY PLANNING"

Dear Mr. Reyes:

During the 538th meeting of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, December 7-8, 2006, we reviewed the proposed revision to NUREG-0800, Standard Review Plan (SRP), Section 13.3, "Emergency Planning." During our review, we had the benefit of discussions with representatives of the NRC staff and the Nuclear Energy Institute representing the industry, and the documents referenced.

Recommendation

NUREG-0800, Standard Review Plan, Section 13.3, "Emergency Planning," should be issued.

Background and Discussion

The proposed revision to SRP Section 13.3, "Emergency Planning," incorporates the new reactor licensing processes codified in 10 CFR Part 52. Although this revision is a restructure and rewrite of the existing SRP Section 13.3, it does not contain any new or unreviewed staff positions in the area of emergency planning.

The revision also incorporates changes to comply with the Commission policy on the use of emergency planning inspections, tests, analyses, and acceptance criteria (EP-ITAAC) specified in the Staff Requirements Memorandum, dated February 22, 2006. The staff presented a version of the generic EP-ITAAC to the Commission in SECY-05-0197, "Review of Operational Programs in a Combined License Application and Generic Emergency Planning Inspections, Tests, Analyses, and Acceptance Criteria," dated October 28, 2005.

In addition to complying with the Commission Policy on the use of the EP-ITAAC at the combined license (COL) application stage, the staff has provided an option of using the EP-ITAAC at the early site permit (ESP) stage consistent with 10 CFR Part 52. The license application review process in 10 CFR Part 52 utilizes the same existing emergency preparedness and planning requirements contained in 10 CFR 50.47 as well as Appendix E to 10 CFR Part 50.

The SRP Section 13.3 places major emphasis on the successful completion of a full-participation exercise to demonstrate reasonable assurance of an executable offsite plan. However, deficiencies in the offsite plan are not required to be resolved before operation up to 5 percent of full power is authorized. The staff considers that successful completion of periodic exercises at existing reactor sites provides a degree of assurance on the effectiveness of the offsite plans for new reactors to be built at or near the site. Green-field sites may lack this assurance and a review of the offsite plan at an early stage may be prudent for these sites. The staff is aware of this issue.

Recent evacuations related to non-nuclear events have shown weaknesses in evacuation plans. The staff is reviewing these experiences for any applicable lessons learned. We support the staff's plan to follow-up with the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (DHS/FEMA) to identify applicable lessons learned from experiences of evacuating large numbers of people (e.g., fire at the hazardous waste site in Apex, North Carolina, and Hurricane Katrina).

We support the staff's efforts in gaining an understanding of emergency planning policies and activities of other Countries. We encourage expansion of these efforts to identify good practices in emergency planning activities in Countries with major nuclear programs.

SRP Section 13.3 should be issued.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Graham B. Wallis
Chairman

References

1. Memorandum from David B. Matthews, Director, Division of New Reactor Licensing, NRR to John Larkins, Executive Director, ACRS, Subject: "Transmittal of Proposed Draft Revision to Standard Review Plan, NUREG-0800, Section 13.3, "Emergency Planning", dated September 8, 2006, (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) accession number ML061870206).
2. SRM SECY-05-0197, "Review of Operational Programs in a Combined License Application and Generic Emergency Planning Inspections, Tests, Analyses, and Acceptance Criteria," dated February 22, 2006, (ADAMS accession number ML060530316).
3. SECY-05-0197, "Review of Operational Programs in a Combined License Application and Generic Emergency Planning Inspections, Tests, Analyses, and Acceptance Criteria," dated October 28, 2005, (ADAMS accession number ML052770225).