October 10, 2007

MEMORANDUM TO: Brian Sheron, Director
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

Roy P. Zimmerman, Director
Office of Nuclear Security
and Incident Response

R. William Borchardt, Director
Office of New Reactors

Jim Dyer, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Michael Weber, Director
Office of Nuclear Materials Safety
and Safeguards

FROM: Dennis K. Rathbun, Director /**RA**/
Division of Intergovernmental Liaison
and Rulemaking
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

SUBJECT: RADIATION PROTECTION STEERING COMMITTEE

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) continues to engage various national and international organizations in radiation protection policy and technical issues. This includes Federal interagency activities through the Interagency Steering Committee on Radiation Standards (ISCORS), and work with the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR), and the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP).

To coordinate the ongoing work of the staff, and in preparation for the examination of options for revision of NRC radiation protection standards and guidance, I am requesting the support of each of your offices to reinstitute the Steering Committee on Radiation Protection. The Steering Committee previously existed, formed to support the staff

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rulemaking on disposition of radiological materials, but many of the individuals involved have since retired or moved into new positions. The Steering Committee, to be comprised of managers from each major NRC program office, will guide the staff in its evaluation of national and international radiation protection activities and provide support to the continued evolution of NRC's regulatory framework as a coherent risk-informed system based on sound up-do-date scientific information. The Steering Committee would be supported by a set of senior technical advisors from the major program offices.

A draft charter for the Steering Committee is attached. Some key areas that have been identified for monitoring include: 1) evaluating the results of national and international radiation protection organization's activities, 2) review and analysis of health effects and risk analysis information, 3) development of national and international radiation protection recommendations, 4) development and coordination of Federal Guidance for Occupational and Public Exposure, 5) Federal agency and State interactions, 6) analysis of potential impacts to NRC licensees of various proposals, and 7) rulemaking activities.

I would appreciate your nominations by October 29, 2007, so that an initial meeting can be organized in early November. At that time, we expect that the ICRP will have published their new recommendations. Dr. Donald Cool will provide a brief overview of the recommendations, and we will begin to examine the steps necessary for the NRC staff to meet the SRM requirement to provide options to the Commission to revise our regulations and guidance. We will also provide an opportunity during this first meeting for each office to briefly outline their respective programs and possible issues for coordination.

Enclosure: Charter for Agency
Steering Committee

cc: Farouk Eltawila, RES
Patricia Holahan, NSIR
Glenn Tracy, NRO
Michael Case, NRR
Robert Pierson, NMSS
Donald Cool, FSME
E. Vincent Holahan, RES
Jean-Claude Dehmel, NRO
Cyndi Jones, NSIR
Roger Pederson, NRR

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