

February 12, 2008

MEMORANDUM TO: Michael J. Case, Director
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Charles E. Ader, Director
Division of Safety Systems and Risk Assessment
Office of New Reactors

Melvyn N. Leach, Director
Division of Preparedness and Response
Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response

Frederick D. Brown, Director
Division of Inspection and Regional Support
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Christiana Lui, Director */RA/*
Division of Risk Analysis
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON (1) ASME/ANS STANDARD
FOR PROBABILISTIC RISK ASSESSMENT FOR NUCLEAR
POWER PLANT APPLICATIONS AND (2) NEI DOCUMENTS

The purpose of this memorandum is to request your review of the ASME/ANS "Standard for Probabilistic Risk Assessment for Nuclear Power Plant Applications" and NEI related documents. In a previous memorandum dated September 20, 2007, we requested comments on the standard as part of the ASME/ANS public review and comment process. Those comments were sent to ASME for their consideration in finalizing the standard. Whether the staff comments were adequately addressed in this final standard should be part of your review.

RES has initiated the review of the ASME/ANS Probabilistic Risk Assessment (PRA) Standard and related documents (ASME/ANS RA-S-2007, NEI 05-04, and NEI 07-12) for endorsement in Revision 2 to Regulatory Guide 1.200. These documents are:

- ASME/ANS RA-S-2007 provides the requirements for a Level 1 and Large Early Release Frequency (LERF) PRA used to support risk-informed decisions for commercial nuclear power plants. Its scope is a Level 1/LERF PRA for at-power conditions for internal events, internal fires, and external events. A future revision of the ASME/ANS Standard will address low power and shutdown conditions.
- NEI 05-04 "Process for Performing Follow-on PRA Peer Reviews Using the ASME PRA Standard (Internal Events)." This document provides guidance for conducting and documenting a follow-on peer review for PRAs using the ASME/ANS PRA Standard.

- NEI 07-12 "Fire PRA Peer Review Process Guidelines." This document provides guidance for use in conducting and documenting a fire probabilistic risk assessment (FPRA) Peer Review.

We had an initial meeting on December 18, 2007, with your staff to discuss the review, what is needed, the schedule, and the milestones. We also held a kick-off meeting on January 15, 2008, to initiate the review, (See Enclosure 1 for list of attendees). Our near term milestone is to have a draft Revision 2 to RG 1.200 for public review in May 2008.

To assemble an integrated NRC staff position, we request your comments by March 7, 2008. A template and guidance for the comments has been provided to your staff. In addition, all relevant documents (to be reviewed and maybe needed for the review) have been placed in ADAMS in one single package (ML080150220). Please provide both a hard copy and an electronic copy of your comments to Michelle Gonzalez (mmg1@nrc.gov) and to Mary Drouin (mxd@nrc.gov).

Other meetings (both public and internal) have been scheduled in order to discuss the status and progress of the staff endorsement (See enclosure 2). Please identify a representative from your staff to support any discussions regarding your comments so that issuance of Revision 2 to RG 1.200 can be facilitated. Any questions, please contact Mary Drouin, 301-415-6675, email mxd@nrc.gov.

Enclosures:
As stated

cc:
M. Cunningham, NRR/DRA
M. Gamberoni, DRS, Region I
J. Shea, DRS, Region II
S. West, DRS, Region III
D. Chamberlain, DRS, Region IV
J.S Hyslop, RES/DRASP
M. Salley, RES/DRASP
V. Perin, NRR/PSP
J. Anderson, NRR/IP
L. Mrowca, NRO/DSRA
G. Parry, NRR/DRA
D. Dube, NRO/DSRA

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G. Parry, NRR/DRA
D. Dube, NRO/DSRA

ADAMS Accession No.: ML080240476

OFFICE	RES/DRA		RES/DRA		RES/DRA	
NAME	M. Gonzalez		M. Drouin		C. Lui	
DATE	1/ 24 /08		1/ 28 /08		2/ 12 /08	

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