

HLWYM HEmails

From: Albert Wong
Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2006 11:36 AM
To: George Adams
Cc: Amitava Ghosh; Lee Abramson; Dennis Damon; Brittain Hill; Robert Johnson (NMSS); Mahendra Shah; Christopher Ryder; Rosemary Reeves; Michael Waters; fferrante@swri.org
Subject: NUREG 1150 and others

George -

(1) After our mtg yesterday, I quickly went thru NUREG-1150, but did not find a specific paragraph that provides a rationale as to why 1150 chose 95th and 5th percentile values as the confidence interval. I then asked Mary Druon of RES the same question. According to Mary, she could not ever recall a reference where the agency provided a justification of why the 95th and 5th percentile values were chosen as the confidence interval. As far as she could tell, the selection of 95th and 5th percentile values have been an accepted practice in this agency (and elsewhere as well). Mary was one of the authors of NUREG-1150.

So at this time I would recommend the following:

Instead of dwelling on the 90% confidence interval (starting at line 116 on page A-4), we simply replace lines 116 thru 120 with the a few generic sentences, such as:

Uncertainty of the estimated reliability may be characterized in terms of a confidence interval. Consistent with the agency practice, as illustrated in NUREG-1150 Severe Accident Risks: An Assessment for Five U. S. Nuclear Power Plants (1990), a 5th and a 95th percentile values are calculated as follows ... (Note: as we have discussed yesterday, instead of showing how to hand-calculate the 5th and 95th, the rest of calculations will be replaced by looking up some tabulated values)

(2) I will recalculate the numbers in Appendix C based on a 24 mission time. Mike wants us to clearly indicate the a mission time of 24 hours is assumed for the cleaning up the airborne contamination following a release. I told him we will make that clear in the assumptions.

(3) Chris R. is going over the regulations to come up with a cogent argument on the use of probability/frequency in Appendix A calculations.

Albert

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