July 25, 2008

MEMORANDUM TO: John A. Grobe
Associate Director for Engineering and
Safety Systems
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Mark A. Cunningham, Director **/RA/**
Division of Risk Assessment
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: TRIP REPORT: MEETING OF PWR AND BWR OWNERS GROUPS RISK MANAGEMENT GROUPS

On July 23, 2008, I attended one part of the subject meeting. I had been invited by the groups to discuss NRC perspectives on risk-informed regulatory activities and to hear feedback from the groups.

I provided the enclosed presentation as my perspectives on risk initiatives. In short, I discussed staff priorities, including:

- improving the realism of PRA methods,
- increasing the uses of PRA (with NFPA 805 transition being the dominant new use for the foreseeable future),
- communicating more widely staff decisions and guidance,
- integrating consideration of security improvements into PRA, and
- improving staff expertise.

At the end of the presentation, I received questions and comments on the following topics:

- inconsistent knowledge of risk-informed regulatory principles and practices among NRR staff, including the inconsistent use of the terms “defense in depth” and “safety margins,”
- introduction of new technical issues by NRC staff late in the PRA standards consensus development process (or afterward), and
- need for more detailed guidance on acceptable applications.

I intend to follow up with division staff on each of these topics. If you have any questions or comments, please contact me.

Enclosure:
As stated

CONTACT: Mark A. Cunningham, DRA/NRR
(301) 415-2884

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