October 31, 2008

Mr. Bryan Erler, Vice President
ASME Board on Nuclear Codes and Standards
3 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10116

Dear Mr. Erler:

I am responding to your October 6, 2008 letter ("Update to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on Probabilistic Risk Assessment (PRA) Standards"). You requested that the public review and comment period on Draft Guide 1200 (proposed Revision 2 of Regulatory Guide [RG] 1.200) be extended to the end of December 2008 with a subsequent publication date of Revision 2 to RG 1.200 ("An Approach for Determining the Technical Adequacy of Probabilistic Risk Assessment Results for Risk-Informed Activities") extended to the end of March 2009. The extension will allow Addendum A to the "Standard for Level 1/Large Early Release Frequency Probabilistic Risk Assessment for Nuclear Power Plant Applications" (ASME/ANS RA-S-2008) to be endorsed in Revision 2 to RG 1.200.

We agree that Addendum A is a needed improvement to the ASME/ANS standard RA-S-2008 and would result in a more effective and efficient implementation of both the standard and RG 1.200. Consequently, we are extending the public review and comment period to December 31, 2008, and the final publication of Revision 2 to RG 1.200 to March 31, 2009.

ASME and ANS have worked hard in developing this PRA standard in support of NRC's PRA quality initiative/plan in support of risk-informed regulation (SECY-04-0118, "Plan for the Implementation of the Commission's Phased Approach to Probabilistic Risk Assessment Quality," dated July 13, 2004). This plan identified the various technical guidance documents (e.g., standards) needed to support the various risk-informed activities. We look forward to the completion of the remaining PRA standards (e.g., low power shutdown, Level 2, Level 3) and other risk (non-PRA) standards such as configuration risk management. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Drouin of my staff at 301-415-6675.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Brian W. Sheron, Director
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

cc: K. Ennis, ASME
R. Grantom, ASME
M. Gardner, ANS
A. Camp, ANS
C. Mosley, ANS

October 31, 2008

Mr. N. Prasad Kadambi, Chairman
ANS Standards Board
555 N. Kensington Avenue
La Grange Park, IL 60526

Dear Mr. Kadambi:

I am responding to your October 6, 2008 letter ("Update to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on Probabilistic Risk Assessment (PRA) Standards"). You requested that the public review and comment period on Draft Guide 1200 (proposed Revision 2 of Regulatory Guide [RG] 1.200) be extended to the end of December 2008 with a subsequent publication date of Revision 2 to RG 1.200 ("An Approach for Determining the Technical Adequacy of Probabilistic Risk Assessment Results for Risk-Informed Activities") extended to the end of March 2009. The extension will allow Addendum A to the "Standard for Level 1/Large Early Release Frequency Probabilistic Risk Assessment for Nuclear Power Plant Applications" (ASME/ANS RA-S-2008) to be endorsed in Revision 2 to RG 1.200.

We agree that Addendum A is a needed improvement to the ASME/ANS standard RA-S-2008 and would result in a more effective and efficient implementation of both the standard and RG 1.200. Consequently, we are extending the public review and comment period to December 31, 2008, and the final publication of Revision 2 to RG 1.200 to March 31, 2009.

ASME and ANS have worked hard in developing this PRA standard in support of NRC's PRA quality initiative/plan in support of risk-informed regulation (SECY-04-0118, "Plan for the Implementation of the Commission's Phased Approach to Probabilistic Risk Assessment Quality," dated July 13, 2004). This plan identified the various technical guidance documents (e.g., standards) needed to support the various risk-informed activities. We look forward to the completion of the remaining PRA standards (e.g., low power shutdown, Level 2, Level 3) and other risk (non-PRA) standards such as configuration risk management. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Drouin of my staff at 301-415-6675.

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/RA/

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Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

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October 31, 2008

Mr. N. Prasad Kadambi, Chairman
ANS Standards Board
555 N. Kensington Avenue
La Grange Park, IL 60526

Dear Mr. Kadambi:

I am responding to your October 6, 2008 letter ("Update to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on Probabilistic Risk Assessment (PRA) Standards"). You requested that the public review and comment period on Draft Guide 1200 (proposed Revision 2 of Regulatory Guide [RG] 1.200) be extended to the end of December 2008 with a subsequent publication date of Revision 2 to RG 1.200 ("An Approach for Determining the Technical Adequacy of Probabilistic Risk Assessment Results for Risk-Informed Activities") extended to the end of March 2009. The extension will allow Addendum A to the "Standard for Level 1/Large Early Release Frequency Probabilistic Risk Assessment for Nuclear Power Plant Applications" (ASME/ANS RA-S-2008) to be endorsed in Revision 2 to RG 1.200.

We agree that Addendum A is a needed improvement to the ASME/ANS standard RA-S-2008 and would result in a more effective and efficient implementation of both the standard and RG 1.200. Consequently, we are extending the public review and comment period to December 31, 2008, and the final publication of Revision 2 to RG 1.200 to March 31, 2009.

ASME and ANS have worked hard in developing this PRA standard in support of NRC's PRA quality initiative/plan in support of risk-informed regulation (SECY-04-0118, "Plan for the Implementation of the Commission's Phased Approach to Probabilistic Risk Assessment Quality," dated July 13, 2004). This plan identified the various technical guidance documents (e.g., standards) needed to support the various risk-informed activities. We look forward to the completion of the remaining PRA standards (e.g., low power shutdown, Level 2, Level 3) and other risk (non-PRA) standards such as configuration risk management. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Drouin of my staff at 301-415-6675.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Brian W. Sheron, Director
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

cc: K. Ennis, ASME
R. Grantom, ASME
M. Gardner, ANS
A. Camp, ANS
C. Mosley, ANS

Identical Letters Sent To: N. Prasad Kadambi and Bryan Erler

DISTRIBUTION: **G20080674/LTR-08-0520/EDATS: SECY-2008-0572**

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ADAMS Accession No.: ML082971081

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